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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian-Syrian Ties Expected in 'a Few Weeks'

JN1704203289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Arab sources in Cairo have revealed that Algeria is currently mediating between Egypt and Syria and the PLO and Syria. The mediation aims to bring the viewpoints closer to prepare for the normalization of relations between Cairo and Damascus and the PLO and Damascus in order to coordinate the Arab stands during the upcoming phase.

The sources pointed out that Syria has expressed its welcome to receive any Egyptian or PLO delegation without any preconditions. The sources also asserted that the mediations by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and King Husayn of Jordan have succeeded in lessening the tension in Egyptian-Syrian relations. They also succeeded in halting the media campaigns between Damascus and Baghdad.

The sources expected diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria to resume in a few weeks time.

EEC Experts Preparing Middle East Peace Plan

JN1504144889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 13 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a group of EEC experts is currently preparing a political plan for the European governments to give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East and to seize the current opportunity to achieve peace in the region and solve the Middle East problem.

West European sources in London have disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that the plan includes a proposal to invite Israel and the Palestinian state to join the EEC as active members following the end of the peace negotiations. These sources also pointed out that EEC experts on the Middle East believe that this proposal will encourage Israel and persuade it to change its hardline positions, which are still blocking efforts to convene an international conference.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rebukes Arabs for Lack of Support

WA1804085389 Paris AFP in English 0559 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, April 18 (AFP) - PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat strongly rebuked Arab countries late Monday for failing to keep their promises to financially support the Palestinian intifadah, or uprising.

Mr. 'Arafat, speaking at a conference devoted to the intifadah at Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters here, said the numerous contacts he had had with Arab governments on the aid issue "have produced no results."

Arab heads-of-states, meeting at the 1988 Algiers summit, promised 128 million dollars in emergency aid to be followed by 43 million dollars monthly to aid the residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Recalling that the United States provides three billion dollars in economic and military aid each year to Israel, Mr. 'Arafat said "Arab aid to the Palestinian revolution has totalled one billion dollars over the past 25 years."

"Treatment of people wounded or crippled in the current (16-month-old) uprising alone requires 120 million dollars," he said.

"Thanks to the solidarity of Palestinian families inside (the territories) and outside, the intifadah will continue with the same force until it realizes its objectives—the end of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of a Palestinian state," he said.

The conference, attended by numerous Arab intellectuals, was held on the anniversary of the assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad.

PLO Seeks To Join UN Organizations

NC1504154989 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, April 15 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization is seeking to join specialized United Nations bodies as a member state, PLO spokesman Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh confirmed here Saturday.

The U.S. State Department reported Friday that the PLO was seeking membership in the U.N.'s World Health Organization for its newly-declared state of "Palestine," and vowed to block any PLO effort to become a full U.N. member.

"The PLO efforts are also directed toward the UNDP (U.N. Development Program), the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) and UNESCO (U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)," said Mr. 'Abd Rabbuh.

Western diplomats here said the PLO had a good chance of winning full membership in the specialized bodies, where member countries can approve new members by simple majority vote.

On the other hand, any attempt to join the U.N. General Assembly appears doomed as such applications require the approval of the Security Council, where the United States holds veto power.

"The U.S. is opposed to efforts to grant the PLO rights and privileges exceeding its status as an observer organization within the U.N. system," the State Department said.

Only one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, China, has formally recognized the independent state of Palestine declared last November by the PLO, which does not actually control any territory.

The PLO delegation, now known as Palestine, has observer status at the United Nations, with the added privilege granted January 12 to address the body directly without going through a member state.

Bassam Abu Sharif on Shamir Proposal, U.S. Role
JN1704202589 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
16 Apr 89 p 1, 31

[By Sawsan Abu Husayn]

[Text] Cairo—AL-ANBA'—Bassam Abu Sharif stated to AL-ANBA' that any initiative that is proposed without including a vision of the final solution in the region and establishing the Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is no more than a maneuver and a waste of time.

He said that what Israeli Prime Minister Shamir proposed during his visit to the United States is nothing more than talk about elections, which we consider a means to a democratic election of the Palestinian people's representatives.

He added that whoever wants to talk about solving the Palestine question has to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishing their independent state and Israel's right to live peacefully within secure borders.

Abu Sharif pointed out that we will not consider Shamir's proposal as an objective or political solution. He said: We want a political solution based on justice. We want to know the outcome of the political process. We demand the establishment of our independent Palestinian state. We are struggling and working toward its establishment. As for Shamir, he is merely trying to bide time for something that will happen in the future and that we are sure he knows nothing about. This thing will be in our favor, and we will establish our state.

On the U.S. stand, Abu Sharif said: U.S. President George Bush's call to end the occupation is another form of calling for the implementation of 242 and 338. This is to the credit of the United States. We consider this a preparation for finding the comprehensive solution and establishing the Palestinian state.

On his concept of the coming battle for peace and the taking of steps to implement it, he said: We are now going through a transitional stage that is linked to holding the international conference. The dialogues that are taking place on the U.S.-Palestinian level, and the Egyptian-Palestinian and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination are one stage of the political process in the Middle East that is working toward convincing the UN Security Council permanent members to take a clear resolution to end the occupation and hold the international conference. This will start by setting up the preparatory committee. This committee is now preparing its files through dialogue and discussion with the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict.

Abu Sharif clarified that the United States and the UN Security Council members must start and continue shouldering their political and moral responsibilities toward holding the international peace conference. This responsibility is represented by pressuring Israel to adhere to the steps supporting peace.

He said that some European countries should also shoulder their responsibilities in the military and financial support that they provide Israel. He said: All these sides have to convince Israel to reach a final solution.

On Israel's terrorist operations after Shamir's visit to the United States, he said: Shamir is using the expansionist terrorist policy against the Palestinian people. He is not seeking to establish peace as much as he is trotting after criminal operations to keep the Israeli grip over the Palestinian territories.

He said: Every country concerned in the Middle East conflict should take all these facts into consideration. We also ask the United States to go beyond muted protests against the Israeli operations inside the occupied territories.

On U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, he said: The steps taken so far have been positive and serious. However, we are still facing a situation that requires more tangible effort to elevate the U.S. position to a more effective level in the Middle East conflict. He clarified that he hopes the U.S. Administration would take steps forward toward the Palestinian peace plan.

On Egyptian-Palestinian coordination, Abu Sharif affirmed its important and essential role in pushing the peace process. He said: The meetings between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat and the other Palestinian leaderships had destroyed the strategic obstacle before peace and finding a comprehensive settlement.

On Palestinian-Jordanian coordination, he affirmed that it will continue and said: This coordination includes all Arab countries, especially those concerned in the Middle East crisis. He described this coordination as a cornerstone for present and future political moves.

Al-Surani Discusses Meetings With U.S.

PM1204095089 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 4 Apr 89 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani by 'Ali 'Umar Jabir in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Jabir] The Unified National Command issued a call to the Palestine of 1948 to participate vigorously in the intifadah [uprising]. Do you expect the Arabs of 1948 to take part in the intifadah operations?

[Al-Surani] The intifadah is the political birth of the Palestinian people, who they [not further identified] thought were obliterated and scattered in 1948. The Palestinian people do exist, and they are all participating in what is happening. This happened in both 1948 and 1967. Those beyond the borders also took part. The important thing is that this has happened since 1948.

It did not start in the occupied territories in 1967. It started in a village near Fahm, and then the rest of the Palestinians joined in. So participation is nothing new: It is a continuous process.

[Jabir] We would like to know in detail what happened during the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue held on 22 March, or at least the most important points discussed with the U.S. Administration.

[Al-Surani] The main thing about the dialogue is the meeting itself, since we consider this important. It is the first time that the United States has recognized the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. It is the first time that the United States has recognized that the PLO is not a terrorist organization but, rather, a national liberation movement like other national liberation movements in the world.

It is the first time that the United States has recognized that no one can speak on the Palestinian people's behalf other than the Palestinian people themselves. It is the first time that it has recognized that it cannot choose the Palestinian people's representatives, and that no Arab states can speak on the Palestinian people's behalf, since it is the Palestinian people who choose their own representatives.

I consider this the foundation of the change that has occurred in the U.S. position and consequently the European position, inasmuch as the PLO alone—which the Palestinian people have chosen and rallied around—speaks officially on the Palestinian people's behalf and represents them in all international forums. What happened on 15 November was endorsed by the Palestine National Council. Then the UN General Assembly moved to Geneva to listen to 'Arafat. Then came the recognitions granted to the Palestinian state, which have already exceeded 100. All this proves that fact.

The second fact is that this meeting differs from the first one. The first represented a recognition. But at the second meeting we got down to business. The talks focused on the dialogue's foundations, and the Americans put forward a view of those foundations that does not differ from our own. The foundations are Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, with which no one disagrees.

Of course they support the international conference, though in their view the international conference means one thing and in our view it means another. And, according to the Soviets, it means something else again. So there are several conceptions of the international conference. As far as we are concerned, the objective of the international conference is to bring views closer together and to guarantee implementation.

If there are no genuine guarantees of implementation, it would be futile to make any effort. Washington has another conception of the international conference: as merely an opening ceremony and a concluding ceremony. But it has been noted that there is no rigidity in the U.S. position with regard to the give-and-take process.

We assess the meeting as a good one, and the next will be held in Tunis shortly, at the end of April. It could be followed in another place [sentence as published]. But generally we say that the meeting was a step forward.

[Jabir] What were the most notable points discussed at the recent Executive Committee meeting?

[Al-Surani] I would like to say that the Executive Committee's agenda always includes one point that never changes, namely, the political situation in the Palestinian, Arab, and international contexts. Then come the new points, an assessment of past events, and preparations for the next stage. We always begin our work by uttering the name of God and then move on to the Palestinian political position within the Arab context.

Within the Palestinian context, the most important thing is the intifadah, its requirements, and ways of continuing and backing it until it bears fruit, and ways of eliminating all conspiracies to destroy it. Thus, we say that the intifadah, which some thought would end, will continue until the occupation is eliminated.

I would like to say something to Arab citizens, namely, that there are now morals that we call the intifadah morals—new morals that have started in our occupied territories.

For instance, wedding parties do not now take place in the occupied territories. After the bride is engaged, the bridegroom's family go to the home of the bride's family and accompany the bride without any wedding celebrations. Every penny must be spent on the intifadah—a call to many of our young men, and I expect them to respond.

[Jabir] What about the 'Arafat-Mubarak-Husayn meeting?

[Al-Surani] We have long called for a special committee comprising Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine in Palestine and the states surrounding it in order to prepare a single position with a view to the international conference, so that if we do attend an international conference, we will do so not with various different views but, rather, with a single view on Palestinian territory—and Arab territory too, since the Golan Heights are occupied, as is part of Lebanon.

When Sheverdnadze visited Damascus, he informed us that President al-Asad agreed to the formation of such a committee, but so far nothing has happened. The importance of Egypt and Jordan to the PLO stems from the fact that Egypt has a link via the Gaza Strip and Jordan has a link via the West Bank.

Thus, when Bush talks with Shamir, he will have with him a complete picture of Arab and Palestinian opinion vis-a-vis the Palestinian state, self-determination, the international conference, and Jerusalem, capital of Palestine. Therefore we consider this meeting very important and essential. In fact, we want more: not only a three-way meeting, but a five-way meeting including Syria and Lebanon.

If such a five-way meeting takes place, we will have ended the estrangement in Syrian-Palestinian relations and Syrian-Egyptian relations and the situation in Lebanon, because Lebanon too must be stabilized in order to decide who will represent it at the conference.

Egyptian-PLO Meetings Examine U.S. Proposals

PM1704082689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Apr 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian-Palestinian Contacts on U.S. Ideas"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the aim of the current contacts between Egypt and the PLO and some Palestinian leaderships in the occupied Arab territory is to discuss certain ideas raised by the U.S. Administration during President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington to give impetus to the Middle East peace process.

The sources said that the consultations include discussion of a new U.S. plan, not finalized yet, on "confidence-building" measures in the West Bank and Gaza if the various parties agree on elections in the occupied territory.

The sources revealed that, during his talks with President Bush and other members of the U.S. Administration, President Mubarak rejected the idea of issuing a U.S.-Egyptian joint statement on this plan including Egyptian acceptance of the plan, and he stressed that it was up to the PLO to accept or reject the plan but that Egypt would convey the ideas to the PLO.

According to diplomatic reports in Cairo, the U.S. plan includes a freeze on the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, the lifting of all restrictions on freedom of movement, the release of political prisoners and detainees, and the partial withdrawal of some of the Israeli military forces in the West Bank and Gaza.

The same reports say that the United States has asked Israel to stop deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territory and to allow some Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza to travel to Cairo and Amman for consultation on this plan. A Palestinian delegation arrived for consultations in Cairo from the occupied territory 2 days ago.

Bush-Shamir Talks Take Peace to 'Square One'

LD0904221489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 9 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The speeches that have been exchanged between U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington have taken the Palestinian initiative for realizing peace in the area back to square one. Indeed, this Israeli stubborness, which has not met with American opposition, will push matters more and more to the danger point.

If the blessed Palestinian uprising, which has resolved under PLO leadership to continue until occupation is defeated, finds a determination to ignore the Palestinian will in the American-Israeli speeches that were exchanged, the uprising, which knew how to bring legitimate Palestinian aspirations to the notice of world public opinion through the force of the stone, will continue its struggle and uprising until this awakening grows stronger and stronger, especially in the United States and Israel.

We do not wish to pause long at the attitude of the United States and the words and indications contained in the speech of American President Bush, as we will be returning to this after we study it carefully and read it again, particularly now that the new administration is building its policy through the meetings and talks it holds.

However, initially we hasten to say that the attitude of the American Administration reflects a glaring bias and that American attempts to sound out the situation have not yet got to the heart of the Palestinian issue and the Middle East conflict, which is quite clearly regaining the Palestinian identity through the establishment of their own state.

We will, however, emphasize that despite all its intransingence, Shamir's speech does not reflect what Israel has on the ground and what is in front of it. Shamir, it appears, has become like what we once were—that is, when we had nothing. He wants everything for himself and deprives us of everything, despite the fact that he knows full well that on the Israeli, Arab, and international level, facts and driving forces are proceeding with a current he cannot overtake, whatever his misrepresentation of facts may be. [passage omitted]

Shamir has been openly tryng to call the East Bank a Palestinian state. He categorically rejected the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the river. We do not now what is in the mind of American President Bush who heard Shamir's signals and understood them; he saw him wipe Jordan off the map so that it can become a homeland and state for the Palestinians.

Bush's speech should have contained something just the opposite. Shamir's speech must have been discussed with Bush before he delivered it. Nevertheless, the Americans and the Israelis know that the Palestinians want their homeland and their identity, their soil, and their state on the soil of their homeland and not on any other soil.

Shamir reminds us of the past somewhat unintelligently when he says no to the PLO. He even goes on to say that it does not exist and says that he refuses to let it be a party to anything. This means that Shamir rejects what he sees with his own eyes and what the world accepts, namely that the PLO has the right to lead its people and that it is its indisputable representative.

We will continue to cling to the belief that the United States of America, which is conducting a dialogue with the PLO, does not share Shamir's belief and that it is currently sounding out the situation, listening to all the sides, and examining the attitudes one at a time before it can formulate its final attitude. We shall do so until it becomes possible to distinguish between black and white and until a much deeper study of the American speech is complete.

U.S., Israel Seeking 'To Push Old Goods'

JN1404212289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1855 GMT 14 Apr 89

["Reading of the Political Situation": "Washington's Juggling Act"]

[Text] Brothers: Following Yitzhaq Shamir's Washington visit, U.S. and Israeli media have sought to push old goods and show that it has achieved its objectives and produced across-the-board understanding between the United States and Israel. They even seek to make it sound as if there were harmony between Washington and Tel Aviv on the mechanics of movement and settlement in the Middle East.

Leaks by Washington to U.S. media suggest that the Shamir plan has the blessing of the U.S. Administratation under the plea of giving it a chance to stand the test on the ground. Washington contends that the plan must be seen in the context of the gradual step-by-step approach favored by Washington.

As a matter of fact, such an effort by Washington is, intrinsically, diamatrically opposed to the drift of Washington's recent statements and postures, particularly those during President Mubarak's U.S. visit. Where are the Palestinian people's political rights about which President Bush talked during his meeting with President Mubarak?

Where is the territory-for-peace formula espoused by Bush and Mubarak? More important, how can the U.S. Administration in the same breath support a political plan essentially calling for elections in the occupied territories and advocate an end to occupation?

Elections and occupation do not go together. How does the U.S. Administration propose to resolve such a contradiction in its logic, its President's statements and speeches, as well as the studies and researches it has commissioned? We are sorry to say that all this adds up to a juggling act aimed at fudging the real issue—namely, the impossibility of reconciling continued occupation and self-determination. There can be no self-determination under occupation. It is a given that cannot be bypassed, try as Washington and its media corps might.

In any case, Washington's world standing is at stake. If Washington couldn't care less about its credibility, it may as well not expect others to be held by their pronouncements. Each party has its limitations and its own logic, and any settlement can only be founded on compromise and common ground. No common ground may be reached through political trial balloons or by playing old, threadbare tricks.

'Arafat Reiterates Call for Arab Summit

JN1004202089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stressed the importance of an effective European role for the attainment of peace in the Middle East. In a statement published by the Tunisian paper AL-SABAH today, brother Abu 'Ammar said that if the Zionist entity continues to reject the peace initiatives, this would further destabilize the situation. He said that the Zionist entity is preparing for a new war scenario in the region.

Brother leader and President Abu 'Ammar reiterated his call for the need to hold an Arab summit to discuss all the important issues in the region.

'Arafat Receives Mitterrand Invitation To Visit

JN1604182089 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has received an invitation from French President Francois Mitterrrand to meet with him at the Elysee Palace in Paris to discuss the Middle East peace process.

'Arafat adviser Nabil Sha'th said the meeting will take place next month.

'Arafat Speaks at Seminar in Tunis 16 Apr

LD1604192189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Excerpts] A seminar to mark the first anniversary of the martydom of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] entitled "The Uprising, From Steadfastness to Victorious Confrontation" opened today. It will continue until 19 April.

The opening of the seminar was attended by Mr Abderrahim Zouari, general secretary of the Democratic Constitutional Rally; Mr Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state; a number of members of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Constitutional Rally and the PLO Executive Committee; a number of Palestinian leaders; and accredited Arab ambassadors.

On this occasion, the general secretary of the Democratic Constitutional Rally delivered a speech in which he called on the international community to exert pressure on Israel to recognize Palestinian rights. [passage omitted]

Mr Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, delivered a speech during the opening session. At the beginning of his speech he saluted, in the name of those attending and those participating in the seminar, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for his generousity in allowing Tunis to embrace this seminar, which is dedicated to studying the means to secure the continuation of the blessed popular uprising within the occupied territories.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat underlines that all attempts to tame the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories or to contain it have failed. He stressed that the Palestinian people insist on continuing their struggle until the end of the occupation and the establishment of their independent state on the soil of their national territories.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat renewed his rejection of Yitzhak Shamir's proposals to implement elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the shadow of occupation. He called the PLO proposals that call for putting the territories occupied in 1967 under international supervision for a limited period as preparation for the Palestinian people to handle his own affairs and to practice his right to self-determination.

The head of the Palestinian state asked the international community, especially Western countries, to give the Palestinian people their rights as outlined in UN Resolution No 181 for 1947.

In her address on this occasion, Mrs Khalil al-Wazir, the widow of martyr Abu Jihad, appealed to world governments and the international community and called for tangible measures that go beyound assessing blame in the face of Israeli practices and terrorist measures.

The opening session of the seminar was distinguished with speeches by Dr Muhammad al-Farra, Arab League assistance secretary general; Mr Ahmad Al-Asbahi, chairman of North Yemen's permanent committee of the General People's Congress; and Mr Djelloul Malaika, deputy speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf on 'Uprising,' Civil Disobedience

JN1704195389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] In a statement to the press published in Tunis today, Fatah Central Committee member brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] expressed his belief that the enemy government will resort to the weapon of starvation after it has used all means to quell the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories. Brother Abu Iyad affirmed that despite the danger of this weapon, the Palestinian people will remain confident that they will overcome their ordeal and will continue their blessed intifadah.

Asked why the intifadah has not developed into civil disobedience, brother Abu Iyad said that the concept of civil disobedience means destroying the administration and limiting its presence in the occupied territories. Then a disobedience to all resolutions will begin. He said that civil disobedience requires huge amounts of money that cannot be afforded, pointing out at the same time that part of this civil disobedience is being currently applied in such cases as boycotting the enemy's goods, refusal to pay taxes, and resignation from the police.

Brother Abu Iyad reiterated his call on the Arab countries to support the intifadah and also urged every country to pay its contribution to the intifadah, approved during the Arab summit conference last year.

Al-Husayni Views Current Palestinian Position

PM1204132589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Apr 89 p 3

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of Jerusalem's Arab Studies Center, by Zaki Musa in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musa] You met recently with British Minister of State William Waldegrave. What new ideas did you bring out of that meeting?

[Al-Husayni] That was my second meeting with Waldegrave, as I met with him first at the British Consulate in Jerusalem. The discussion broached U.S. President Bush's recent statements and what would follow them, in addition to the Israeli position on the issues we discussed.

For my part, I stressed the known Palestinian demands to the minister, especially working to end the occupation by exerting more pressure on Israel to agree to negotiate with the PLO as the only means of achieving a political solution to the problem—a solution providing for the establishment of two separate states. [passage omitted]

[Musa] What was the nature of your visit to the United States?

[Al-Husayni] The main objective of the visit was to present the Palestinian position to three parties: the Americans, the U.S. Jewish community, and the Palestinian and Arab community.

With regard to the Americans, the Palestinian political position and the Palestinian people's unity inside and outside [the occupied territories] were both emphasized. Any imagination or delusion about the possibility of setting up an alternative leadership was denied. We also also stressed the PLO's and the Palestinian people's commitment to PNC decisions and our peace plan. We drew the attention to the seriousness of Israeli inclinations and the repression and persecution we expect in the period ahead.

As for the Jewish community, I told them what I told the Americans. I added that the Palestinian initiative took into consideration the status of the Jewish state, which must be part of the Middle East, not of the West or Europe.

With regard to the Palestinian and Arab community, I provided a clear picture of the popular intifadah inside the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's determination to achieve their objectives and establish the Palestinian state. We also called on them to follow the example of unity and cohesion displayed by the inhabitants inside in order to serve the national causes in a better way. Furthermore, I held a number of meetings with U.S. senators and members of various committees and organizations. [passage omitted]

[Musa] In view of what you sensed there, has a new U.S. position crystallized?

[Al-Husayni] U.S. officials are now convinced that no more concessions can be made. We are required to adhere to the present position and not to be lenient about the principles desired. Besides, our no's should not be unquestionable no's.

We are in a good position, and our rejection of the Israeli offers proceeds from a sincere and firm ground. We must not fear discussion. To the contrary, we can push the Israelis further and further into a corner. [passage omitted]

[Musa] How do you view the decision to install Yasir 'Arafat as president of the Palestinian state?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinian state proclamation must be followed by other steps that would bring us closer to the form of the complete Palestinian state. The PNC has given the Executive Committee room to begin to take steps at the right time. I believe that naming a head of state is essential. Technically—I mean in protocol terms—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will hold meetings with heads of state, and those meetings must assume an equal nature at the protocol level. [passage omitted]

[Musa] From time to time there is clamorous talk about the relationship between the Unified Command of the Intifadah [uprising] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Since you have experience of these matters in reality, what is the true picture?

[Al-Husayni] Hamas is an effective force against the occupation. I believe that we have passed the stage of a possible clash between it and the Unified National Command. In my view, the stage ahead will witness more cooperation and coordination between the two sides. [passage omitted]

South Asia Regional Affairs

Iran-Pakistan-Turkey ECO Meeting Held

LD1604153389 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 16, IRNA—The economic and infrastructural cooperation committee of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) concluded its two-day session here today. The session reviewed last years' activities of the committee.

ECO groups Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, and representatives of member countries discussed experts' reports on joint establishment of a development bank, joint investment of trade banks, insurance, transport, shipping, civil aviation, and setting up a southwest post union, telecommunication and chamber of commerce in the session.

The meeting decided that heads of chambers of commerce of the three members meet in Tehran next June. The next session of the committee is also to be held in Tehran late December.

Director-general of Iran's Budget and Planning Ministry, director general of the Pakistani Economic Ministry and director general of the Turkish Planning Ministry headed their delegations to the session. The previous session of the committee was held in Ankara last year.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Briefs President on Mideast Trip

LD1804111289 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Algiers, 18/4/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Monday [17 April] here Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, who briefed him on his mission to Damascus, Amman and Baghdad where he handed messages from the head of state to President Hafiz al-Asad, King Husayn and President Saddam Husayn.

Following this audience, Bessaieh told the press that "these working visits enabled me to inform these officials of President Chadli Bendjedid's assessment of the developments which are taking place and in front of which the Arab nation must be organized and must define its collective position.

I submitted to the president of the Republic the various reactions to his messages which were centered on the various aspects of the Middle East crisis particularly the Palestinian issue, Lebanon and inter-Arab relations.

I can say in this context that the head of state considers that time is propitious for a joint Arab action that is adapted to the present requirements and that new opportunities exist and which must be used in the interest and objectives of the Arab nation as a whole.

There is at present what I can call a maturity of situation from which one must draw positive conclusions. In this context, our country is ready to bring its contribution at any moment and wherever it is needed as President Chadli Bendjedid underlined many times and about what he has given me orientation today," Bessaieh concluded.

Program of Algerian National Party Noted

LD1804025189 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Algerian National Party, PNA, the new political association, was formed in Algiers today. [passage omitted]

The new party intends to create 2 million new jobs, to overcome the housing crisis, to turn the dinar into a currency capable of attaining agreed upon economic objectives, to transform the capital of public enterprises so as to eliminate the financial deficit, to prevent strikes, and to increase investments.

The Algerian National Party program also refers to the redistribution of nationalized land and property to their owners and notes the application of the shari'ah through conviction.

The official spokesman of the party is Mr Noureddine (Houen).

Egypt

Beirut Embassy Building Damaged; No Casualties

NC1804104289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Beirut, 18 Apr (MENA)—The Egyptian Embassy building suffered heavy damage last night during the indiscriminate shelling that raged between the warring Lebanese parties.

A responsible source in the Egyptian interests section in Lebanon has said that all mission members are alright and, that no one has been injured.

A number of local private radios reported that a big fire broke out in the Egyptian Embassy building, which is in the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' area in West Beirut. But it has also been reported that the fire broke out in the buildings surrounding the embassy building.

Mubarak Receives Call From Mitterrand on Lebanon

NC1804133689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand telephoned President Husni Mubarak this morning. A responsible source said that the leaders discussed a number of important international and regional issues. The two leaders developed an idea for launching joint efforts on the international level to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon, and maintain its independence and territorial integrity.

Regarding this issue, the Egyptian and French presidents are working together to intensify both Arab and international efforts to bring about a cease-fire in Lebanon and the deteriorating situation there.

It should be recalled that President Mitterrand held similar telephone contacts with U.S. President George Bush, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and Soviet leader Gorbachev.

Today President Mubarak, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih discussed developments in Arab issues and bilateral relations over the telephone.

Deep Concern Expressed Over Nahhalin 'Massacre'

JN1704200089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 1

[By Hamdi Fu'ad]

[Text] Washington—Egypt expressed its deep concern and indignation over the Nahhalin massacre and Israel's deployment of border police to perpetrate the atrocity which claimed tens of killed and wounded in the Palestinian village. Egypt is mounting a diplomatic and political drive in Washington and at the United Nations where moves are under way to have the world body issue a condemnation of the Israeli massacre.

Egypt's Washington Ambassador 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi has conferred with four senior White House and State Department official as well as Robert Kimmit, under secretary of state for political affairs.

Al-Ridi condemned such acts as the grossest form of human rights violation, stressing that Israel is thus placing obstacles in the way of peace efforts.

Meanwhile, 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's permament UN representative, has intensive contact with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Zuhdi Tarazi, the head of the PLO mission, on the occupied land developments and a draft Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli massacre.

The draft would have the Security Council express dismay over the provocative Israeli military action and condemn the outrage as well as hold Israel, as an occupying power, to relevant articles of the Geneva Convention.

'Abd al-Majid Confers With Israel's Merhav

NC1704160689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Re'uven Merhav, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, held a second round of talks today. Following the meeting, Merhav said that they discussed ways of boosting the peace efforts in the Middle East and bilateral ties.

He noted that he handed 'Abd al-Majid an invitation from Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to visit Israel, and said that 'Abd al-Majid may pay a visit. He thanked Egypt for its help in the search for bodies of Israeli soldiers missing in the Sinai and pointed out that the Egyptian-Israeli working group will resume work in Israel in the next few months. He stressed that the peace formula between Egypt and Israel is the best one, and that it can be used with the other parties.

Election Proposal Discussed

NC1604142589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Re'uven Merhav, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who is visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, they discussed middle East developments and international proposals to promote peace efforts and resolve the Palestinian issue.

During his meeting with the Israeli official, Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed Egypt's great concern regarding the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories, particularly the events in Nahhalin in the West Bank and the repressive Israeli measures against Palestinian citizens. He emphasized that these acts contravene the general tendency to establish peace and security in the Middle East. Dr 'Abd al-Majid's statement was relayed by Ambassador Tahir Shash, assistant Egyptian foreign minister. Shash added that Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted during the meeting that Israel must now prove its good intent.

Merhav stated that his talks with Dr 'Abd al-Majid revolved around the need to continue the peace process and make the necessary efforts to move it forward. He added that he had briefed Dr 'Abd al-Majid in detail on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals which he submitted to the U.S. President during his visit to Washington.

Responding to a question on the PLO's rejection of Shamir's proposals, Merhav said that the PLO is not the party at whom the proposals are aimed. He declared: "We will negotiate with the people residing in the territories themselves in their capacity as a more interested party. These people can choose their representatives through elections."

Commenting on the Egyptian position, Merhav said that it is a position that supports peace. Egypt, he added, is the leader of the Arab homeland. He remarked that the peace formula between Egypt and Israel is the appropriate formula for the other parties. [passage omitted]

Merhav Departs Cairo

NC1704203589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Re'uven Merhav, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, along with his accompanying delegation, left Cairo this evening following a 4-day visit to Egypt. Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni also left on the same plane. The delegation was seen off by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Tahir Shash.

Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives on 15-Day Visit

NC1804065089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—A Soviet trade delegation led by (Guriviev), deputy chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce [name and title as received], and Mrs (Ivilivia), adviser to the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo tonight on a 15-day visit to Egypt.

Upon their arrival, the delegation chairman stated that during the visit the delegation will sign contracts to import household detergents at a cost of around 10.5 million sterling pounds in accordance with the protocol signed between the two countries. The delegation will also discuss the feasibility of exchanging exports between the two countries through barter deals.

He added that the delegation will hold talks with representatives of a number of Egyptian export companies, such as the Kato Company, the Basico Company, the Johnsson Company, and the Homecare Company.

New Defense Minister Holds News Conference

NC1704140689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production, held a news conference today. He declared that all the ratified plans of the Armed Forces are being implemented without amendment. He said: We have begun to review plans of operations, combat readiness, and all Armed Forces' strategies.

He noted the role of the Armed Forces in achieving self-sufficiency in order to alleviate the burdens of the state. The Armed Forces produce their needs locally, rationalize their use of resources and expenditures, and assist the state in various sectors by ensuring services to achieve reciprocal benefits and boost the growth rate.

Abu Talib stressed the need to continue developing military industries in order to secure all or most of the Armed Forces' needs and thus serve the Armed Forces and friendly countries. He said that Egypt is presently celebrating the anniversary of the 10 Ramadan victory and will celebrate the anniversary of the return of Sinai on 25 April. The Armed Forces will celebrate the anniversary of the liberation of land through field visits to commands and soldiers at their sites.

In addition, certain projects that are credited to Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah will be inaugurated. He stated that the march will continue in the interest of the homeland for which we all work.

General Abu Talib, minister of defense and war production and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces Higher Council this morning. Also attending the meeting were Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; the heads of the major branches of the Armed Forces; the commanders of the armies and military zones; and the defense minister's aides.

Columnist on Defense Change

NC1804080089 Cairo MENA in English 0725 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 18 (MENA)—The three Cairo Arabic morning dailies gave prominence today to the first statement by the new Defence Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, after his meeting with the Supreme Defence Council.

"No change in the present strategies and plans of the Armed Forces" Abu Talib asserted, adding, however, that there are some additions which he would try to realise. First: Easing the burden of the state and rationalisation of resources and consumption. Second: Assisting the various sectors of the state through providing the specialised experts at the highest possible level in a way that realises mutual benefit, accelerates the tempo of development and securing greater potentials for the Armed Forces.

General Abu Talib affirmed that one of the main strategies of the Armed Forces is the development of the military industries to answer all the requirements of the Armed Forces as well as the needs of the Arab and friendly countries.

This is not possible to achieve excpt through coordination, cooperation and integration between the military industries and the secotr of industry and small industries in Egypt, the papers, further quoting Abu Talib, added.

Editor of "AL-AHRAM," Ibrahim Nafi', wrote in his column under the heading "Abu Ghazalah and Abu Talib and the Surprise of the Decision" saying that the shift of positions in a democratic country should not raise dramatic stories and that there is nothing strange about it.

Presidential Assistant Abu Ghazalah returned home yesterday from Baghdad where he handed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn a message from President Husni Mubarak, the papers said.

Abu Ghazalah will present a report to the president on his mission in Baghdad, the papers added. [passage omitted]

Al-Mansurah, Alexandria Communists Interrogated

JN1704214389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[By Majdi Hilmi]

[Excerpt] The Supreme State Security Prosecution tomorrow listens to testimony of the officers who arrested the communist group in Al-Mansurah and Alexandria. The prosecution will also examine the captured articles which include two cameras, two typewriters, and a large quantity of leaflets. Chancellor 'Abd al-Majid Mahmud, the first public attorney of the Supreme State Security Prosecution, has ordered the imprisonment of the defendants for 15 days pending investigation.

After the prosecution finished listening to their testimonies, most of the detainees denied any connection with the leaflets, while some of them admitted a connection. The prosecution made several charges against the defendants including possession of leaflets inciting hatred against the regime and exploitation of economic and food crises to stir masses against the government and regime.

The def
mal, Fadants are: Salah al-Din Jad, Mustafa al-Jam-
'Isam 'Ai al-Najjar, Ahmad Yusuf, Badr al-Shadhili,
Hammunmar, Jamal 'Ali, Shihab Hasan, and Ayman
lah. [passage omitted]

Extrem
***NC1704*ts 'Secret' Arm of Muslim Brotherhood**
17 Apr 64789 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT
9

[Text] C
holdingiro, April 17 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities are
with vicearly 1,000 Moslem extremists in connection
after Frent incidents that broke out earlier this month
Ministeday prayers at an oasis south of here, Interior
Zaki Badr has disclosed.

Islamic
pers weundamentalists and police clashed as worship-
kilometeleaving a mosque in Al-Fayyum, some 100
Police ars (60 miles) southwest of Cairo, on April 7.
al-Rahnrested 36 people, including Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd
movemman, a leading figure in the extremist Al-Jihad
victed nt. Some members of the movement were con-
al-Sadan the 1981 assassination of President Anwar

More t
blind, an 1,000 partisans of Shaykh 'Umar, who is
Asyut laged demonstrations in the southern city of
t Friday [14 April] to demand his release.

Gen. Ba
Egyptiadr, in remarks carried Monday by the official
erhood news agency, also accused the Moslem Broth-
factionsundamentalist group of working with extremist
ers whothat support the assassination of Moslem lead-
fail to apply sharia, or Islamic law.

The Bro
Egypt, Itherhood, which although illegal is tolerated in
but by likewise advocates the implementation of sharia,
eaceful means.

Howeve
fact a ser, Gen. Badr charged that "the extremists are in
assassin:ret organization of the Moslem Brotherhood for
tendencitions. There is no conflict between the two
a singlees, as some want to believe, and they are in fact
association."

It was
against Gen. Badr's most serious accusation to date
ment byhe Brotherhood, which is represented in parlia-
oppositi more than 30 deputies in a coalition with two
on parties.

Supply
***JN1604*Minister on Bread, Commodity Availability**
14 Apr 803089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
89 p 10

[Text] D
internalr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab, minister of supply and
supply s trade, paid tribute to those working in the
in suppector and said that suppliers and those working
distribuly organizations, corporations, complexes, and
added tion outlets have taken honorable stands. He
and diffhat they are capable of surmounting the crises
iculties confronting them in their work.

He went on to say: They are working under extremely difficult circumstances. Through their sincerity, dedication, and generosity, they managed to overcome the fictitious crisis over bread and flour. Bread has become available and in large quantities everywhere. Some bakeries have a bread surplus at the end of the day. Besides, those tampering with bread prices have been identified. Those who used to offer the Al-Tabaqi bread loaf for 10 piasters have vanished, and the Al-Tabaqi bread loaf is now sold for 5 piasters by both public and private sectors.

During field inspections, Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab said: The rules and bases laid down for effecting organized distribution of super grade flour have really solved the problem after each family was reassured that it will be able to obtain a 5 kg quota of bread during the month of Ramadan by using their supply card, not to mention the other quantities which will be displayed for sale at cooperatives and kiosks.

Suppliers at the Mills Organization led by Dr Ahmad 'Abd al-Ghaffar are working day and night, in cooperation with the supply directorates and the local government organs, to carry out and follow through the measures to organize flour distribution. Eleven thousand tons of flour will be sold to card bearers in Cairo, Al-Jizah, and urban areas in Al-Qalyubiyah.

Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab referred to the successful plan of consumer cooperatives to make available the commodities for which there is great demand during the month of Ramadan, especially vegetables, fruits, meat, chickens, fish, and canned food. He said that the consumer cooperatives supplied the market with large quantities of sauces, to the satisfaction of consumers.

The supply minister answered questions raised by some citizens about the price increases of certain vegetables and said that this is caused by the fact that these vegetables are being offered for sale either out of season or at the beginning of the season. He added: This phenomenon is well-known. Consumers must rationalize their consumption in keeping with their incomes so as not to disrupt their family budgets.

Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab stressed the need for consumers to cooperate with monitoring agencies in order to protect markets from tamperers, brokers, and intermediaries. He asked housewives to effect positive moves in this regard.

Bread Policy Viewed
JN1504175289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Apr 89 pp 1, 13

[Article by chief editor Mustafa Shardi: "So That What Happened a Month Ago Will Not Be Repeated"]

[Excerpts] An observer of the Government's behavior and the domestic wars it contrives and then fights with notable ferocity against trade unions, parties, and at times with individuals, cannot fail to be amazed: It looks

as though the government has disposed of all its problems and concerns, achieved prosperity and stability, spread affluence everywhere and filled the state treasury with gold, lifted Egypt out of its deep ordeal, and thus has become free. So it decided to while away the time by picking fights with others, confidently assuming that it has public support every step of the way until it prevails.

The government is at war with all Egyptian university faculties and hundreds of thousands of university students, a majority of the trade and professional unions, Islamic groups, and all political parties with the exception of the Hajj Ahmad al-Sabahi party. The government's current handling of the Labor Party is particularly revolting. The Labor Party leader, Ibrahim Shukri, has won the the hearts and minds of Egyptians without exerting himself toward that end.

The public does not buy the statements of the government and its ministers and takes exception to the arguments of progovernment newspapers and writers on the issue. Seen in light of the catastrophes that surround us, government behavior is not only bewildering but prompts one to consider leaving the country once and for all. The country is run by an oppressive, tyrannical regime that sinks in some of its actions to the level of a wild beast.

A month ago, we faced a terrible situation that should never have been allowed to recur. If we chose to publicize the facts to which we had access, it was to spare Egypt and the people. Thanks be to God that we weathered the crisis. It must be said, however, that the acute shortage in the strategic stockpiles of basic food staples, particularly in flour, brought Egypt to the verge of a tragedy and caused some sleepless nights.

I just wonder how those who had been presented with daily statistical reports on the strategic stockpile managed to go to bed and aquiesced and remained silent during the past few months when Egypt faced a situation that could have potentially precipitated countrywide food riots. Throughout history, uprisings over food are known to have been a catalyst for conflagrations that swept and burned everything in their path. Talk about calm and sensibility ceases to be relevant in the absence of bread and in the shadow of starvation. A pervasive food scare is the best recipe for ruining any country.

I know that the government may lose no time in seeking to refute my argument. It may issue the customary statements about goods filling government warehouses and publish related figures. Such is the habit of our smart governemnt every time it emerges from a crisis. It does not thank God or work on rectifying the fault that brought on the tragedy but resorts to lying and takes the opportunity to extol its virtues and achievements.

Typically, the government comes to believe the lies it utters, becomes self-confident, flexes its muscles, and proceeds to issue threats left and right until it later finds itself in the grips of another predicament and so takes a lower profile. [passage omitted]

The general economic slump further heightened the food crisis with the bread loaf becoming a major political focus. The acute shortage was poorly handled when the government responded to opposition calls for the Constitution to be amended. The regime reasoned that such matters are likely to divert our attention from issues of substance and that it would be best if all of us addressed the issue of bread, four-fifths of the ingredients for which are imported.

Indeed the call for amending or changing the Constitution aims to secure the loaf on a permanent basis and insulate from any the impact of upheavals and to eliminate the need for its import.

The system rejected what the opposition parties, especially the Wafd Party, had agreed on after long discussion. This was that the solution to the economic crisis—that is, solving the difficult Egyptian crisis—must start with the political step of changing or amending the Constitution and purifying it of some of its bad clauses.

We are not attempting to put forward a basic national demand since a dangerous crisis is facing Egypt. We are seeking honestly and seriously—only God knows how much—o answer the question: How can we ensure that the situation we faced a month ago will not be repeated?

We believe with deep, strong, and unchangeable conviction that the solution to Egypt's problems does not lie in the hands of the Egyptians, U.S. aid, or aid from the brothers. If aid helped us overcome the crisis this year, what about next year and the year after? Will the Egyptian president continue to travel to Washington every year to release the imprisoned aid?

We should not organize our life based on the aid from our helpful brothers who are appreciated and thanked by the Egyptian nation. Let us speak more frankly and say that some of these brothers refuse to loan us cash. They tell us as politely as possible: Tell us what you want to buy from abroad and we will pay the bill to the companies and governments.

Only Egyptians are capable of rebuilding Egypt and making it prosperous, thus realizing stability. Stability does not lie in central security, emergency laws, and ruling by iron and fire. Stability is peace of mind, prosperity, and the citizens' mental comfort and security.

There are estimations affirming that Egyptians' savings that disappear underground inside Egypt amount to over 100 billion [Egyptian] pounds and that the savings of

Egyptians abroad are another $100 billion. However, these sums are placed in Arab and European banks; that is also underground, due to the circumstances and general situation in Egypt.

If Egyptians in Egypt and abroad decline to invest their capital in Egypt, how can we expect Arabs or foreigners to do so, unless they are adventurers, and few are. The authorities hasten to find something on which to pin the reasons for mistrusting the Egyptian situation. We will definitely hear someone accusing the Islamic groups and Egyptian left.

I say: The Islamic groups, the Egyptian left, and the parties were all present during the presidency of late President Anwar al-Sadat. However, they were no obstacle to the steps which achieved much prosperity, despite the clamor some people create over Al-Sadat's open-door policy. Nay, I even go further and say that the traces of life in the pale face of the Egyptian economy are remains from Anwar al-Sadat's days. We have to recognize these facts so that dialogue will be beneficial.

I would like to add that attracting investment will only occur through a political step that achieves relative prosperity and some amount of peace. Amending the Constitution is the starting point. We will toss and turn in a vacuum and time after time reality will place us before this only solution. We must have a Constitution that totally and fully guarantees the people's rights and their political and economic liberties.

We must have a Constitution free of bad laws and interpolated paragraphs, one that preserves the nation's sovereignty and sets the Egyptian's mind at ease over his money, family, today, and tomorrow.

Changing or amending the Constitution is the first step down the path of reconciling the people with the authorities. Without this step, any action will prove useless and a waste of time. [Passage omitted]

Libya

'Senior Official' on U.S.-W. European 'Campaign'

LD1704192489 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A senior official at the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation confirmed that the intensification of the anti-Jamahiriyah media campaign by U.S. and West European media poses many questions, such as: Why is there such a fuss about claims that an Arab country received arms despite uncertainty of such claims?

In a statement to JANA, the official source asked: Why isn't such a fuss made against the Zionist enemy, who everyone realizes represents a danger to Arab existance and commits crimes against the Arab people in Palestine and Lebanon? Why is a fuss not made about the Zionist enemy's possession of the most modern aircraft, missiles, chemical and atomic weapons, and other weapons of total destruction? And why do such quarters not point to the crimes, killings, deportations, and brutal suppression the Zionist military machine uses against the children of the stone revolution?

The senior source added: "The imperialist and Zionist circles, by such stances, clearly confirm their anti-Arab homeland bias." He asked: "Is it logical that the United States gives the most modern weapons to the Zionist enemy, puts at its disposal the most modern military technology and allies strategically with it, but at the same time condemns, denounces, and exerts all sorts of pressure when an Arab country acquires a defensive weapon?

The numerous fusses made over the acquisitions of defensive missiles by some Arab states is evidence enough. The false accusations of some Arab countries having chemical weapons." [as received]

He said: "It has become clear the imperialist and Zionist circles are no longer secretive about their resolution to keep the Arabs weak and exposed to aggression. It is regrettable that such circles are trying to influence world public opinion by linking that with claims of terrorism."

He concluded: "Great Jamahiriyah repeats its refutation of such claims by some media and political circles to stick the charge of terrorist acts on the great Jamahiriyah. We again warn against the hidden intentions of such a campaign."

Sudan

Rebels Announce Capture of Bor Garrison Town

EA1704151489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Another very strategic and historical garrison town in War Zone One has fallen to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. SPLA forces of the Bright Star campaign captured the strategic and historical garrison town of Bor this morning, 17th April 1989, in a surprise storm attack and are now in firm control of Bor town.

The garrison has been wiped out and remnants are being mopped up in the forest around the town.

Waat Garrison Told To Evacuate

EA1704161989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Bor is the provincial capital of Jonglei Province and a major river port on the Nile about 200 km north of Juba. It is to be recalled that the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] started in Bor 6 years ago when the Sudan Army attacked the rebellious 105 Infantry Battalion on 16th May 1983.

The capture of Bor seals the SPLA dry season offensive. Its capture follows a string of carefully planned victories. It is to be recalled that the SPLA has captured, over the last 6 months, all of:

Keyala, Katire, Ikotos, Torit, Farajok, Nimule, Mongalla, Jummayzah, Akobo, and now Bor. Three of these towns are provincial capitals—that is, Nasir [as heard], capital of Sobat Province; Torit, capital of Eastern Equatoria Province; and Bor, capital of Jonglei Province.

The Bright Star campaign commander here has issued a very strong warning to the garrison town of Waat to evacuate Waat within 48 hours or else they face a similar destruction like Nasir, Torit, and Bor.

The warning to Juba Army garrison is also here repeated.

The commander in chief SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/SPLA, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, congratulates the Bright Star campaign commander, officers, NCO's, and men of the Bright Star campaign for scoring this devastating blow to the forces of sectarianism and injustice. Details of the capture of Bor town will follow as soon as they arrive at Radio SPLA.

Reinforcements Sent To Halt Exodus From Chad

NC1704192889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Sudan decided today to send Army reinforcements to the western district of Darfur to confront the flow of Chadian armed men into the district. The exodus of gunmen began to increase following the discovery of an abortive plot to seize power in Chad early this month.

Sudanese Information Minister Husayn Abu Salih stated that the Sudanese Armed Forces received orders to strictly confront any foreign forces that cross the Sudanese borders. He noted that Sudan has officially lodged a complaint with Chad regarding the illegal exodus of Chadian forces into Sudan.

The Sudanese information minister strongly denied what he described as Chadian accusations that Sudan and Libya were behind the attempt to seize power. Chadian Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahamat Itno attempted the coup in collaboration with the Army commander and the president's adviser for national security.

Involvement in Coup Attempt in Chad Denied

EA1704162789 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 April— A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has denied (?allegations) by certain quarters that Sudan was involved in the recent abortive coup in Chad. The source told the newspaper AL-KHARTOUM, which published the report today, that Sudan had no interest in the political destabilization of Chad.

Sudan confirmed its noninterferen
of other states and its respect for
The source pointed out that tribal
coup attempt and Sudan had noth

The source said that an offici
would visit the country within th
on different subjects which he di

Council Bans Unofficial Press

EA1704111089 Omdurman Dom

s Reports on Army

1930 GMT 16 Apr 89 *nestic Service in Arabic*

[Text] The Council of Ministers h
this morning under the chairman
ister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

held its regular meeting
nship of the prime min-

The government's official spoke
information minister, Dr Husay
statement that the meeting heard
being made by the ministerial pe
results achieved so far. The inter
action for the coming period was

esman, the culture and
yn Abu Salih, said in a
a report on the progress
eace committee and the
nal and external plan of
s also discussed.

The spokesman also said the co
the defense minister on military
of the country, where the Armed
the strategic areas. The council al
circumstances which led to the i
territory by some Chadian elem
taken to control the situation.

uncil heard a report by
operations in the south
Forces are in control of
lso heard a report on the
nfiltration of Sudanese
nents and the measures

Dr Abu Salih added that the
resolution banning all newspa
reports about the Armed Forc
statements made by the Armed
ment's official spokesmen. The
report on information policy su
culture and information minister

council also issued a
apers from publishing
es apart from official
Forces and the govern-
e council discussed a
bmitted by the former
r.

The Council of Ministers appro
between the Sudanese Governn
Fund for Arab Economic Develo
of the Al-Fashir water project du
heard a report by the public serv
reform minister on the preparatio

oved a loan agreement
ment and the Kuwaiti
pment for the financing
uring 1989. The council
vice and administrative
on of the social contract.

Statement Issued on 'Unauthori

EA1704165089 Khartoum SUNA

ized Demonstrations'

17 Apr 89 *in Arabic 1430 GMT*

[Text] Khartoum, 17 April—M
al-Fadil al-Mahdi, the interior
statement appealing to all the
uphold the law and not organ
demonstrations, thus upholding
Council of Ministers.

Mr Mubarak 'Abdallah
minister, has issued a
political groupings to
nize any unauthorized
g the decision of the

The statement said that a number of citizens had demonstrated in the capital and in the regions last week in response to a call from the National Islamic Front. He pointed out that during these demonstrations stones had been thrown and the security forces had been provoked.

The statement added that one citizen had died and two others had been injured during a demonstration last Saturday. The statement stressed that the security authorities would counter all unlicensed gatherings and demonstrations and would stop them by force if the situation so demanded.

Rebels Issue Statement on Islamic Law

EA1404193089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] [Announcer] Here is the press statement by a spokesman for SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army] political-military High Command:

No 29 (A) II. Date: 14th April 1989. It reads:

In the wake of the recent resolution by the Constituent Assembly in Khartoum which supposedly freezes shari'ah law until the projected national constitutional conference is held, it has become quite imperative for SPLM/SPLA to make matters clear.

The relevant provision, as contained in the text of the Sudanese peace initiative of 16th November 1988 reads:

Although the firm stand of the SPLM/SPLA remains the repeal of the September 1983 laws, to be replaced by the 1974 laws, it nevertheless and because of its keenness on the convening of the national constitutional conference has at this stage agreed with the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] that in the period preceding the convening of the national constitutional conference, all the provisions involving the hudud [Islamic punishments] and related articles that are contained in the September 1983 laws be frozen and that there shall be no legislation on any laws that contain such articles until the national constitutional conference is held and final agreement is reached on the alternative laws.

From the foregoing, it is quite obvious that there are two distinct, albeit related, requirements.

First, the hudud and other articles connected with them ought to be frozen.

Secondly, no similar laws are to be introduced until the national constitutional conference is convened and the issue resolved.

The resolution by the Constituent Assembly could be liberally interpreted as a fulfillment of the second requirement in the limited sense that a suspension of debate on the alternative version of Islamic laws, which have been before the assembly lately, amounts to a commitment by the assembly not to introduce any Islamic laws before a national constitutional conference takes place.

However, when it comes to the first of the two requirements, nothing the Constituent Assembly has done so far suggests that the objectionable provisions of the September 1983 version of shari'ah laws, presently still in force, have been actually frozen.

The fact that sentences meted out by criminal courts on account of convictions based on shari'ah are not being carried out does not constitute a freeze on shari'ah, as envisaged by the Sudanese people's initiative.

Not only do the hudud remain on the statute books, but all routine criminal proceedings related to them are still being initiated and conducted up to the stage where an accused person is either acquitted or convicted.

Indeed, for each and every alleged transgressor of the law tried and convicted under shari'ah, the grim prospects of ultimate crucifixion, loss of limbs, or flogging remains very real.

The swift pace with which events related to the peace process in Sudan has been moving has left the public as well as the media, both on the domestic and international plane, unable to understand correctly what has and what has not been done in the effort to implement the Sudanese peace initiative.

The ultimate goal for which the country should strive is durable peace. The prospects for its attainment could be considerably enhanced if all the political forces appreciate the need to move towards a national constitutional conference with thorough and adequate preparatory steps.

Bahrain

Diplomatic Ties Established With PRC 18 Apr

JN1804111689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 18 Apr (WAKH)—Bahrain and the PRC have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between them at embassy level as of today.

A Bahraini Foreign Ministry statement said that out of the desire to promote relations of friendship and cooperation between Bahrain and the PRC, and to promote their bilateral relations in a manner that would serve the interests of the two friendly peoples on the basis of mutual respect for the two states' sovereignty and their territorial integrity, and in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, and the noninterference in domestic affairs in which the two countries believe—the two states have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at the embassy level as of 18 April 1989. [passage omitted]

Ties Established With Colombia

JN1804131589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, 18 Apr (WAKH)—Bahrain and the Republic of Colombia have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the nonresident ambassadorial level. They have agreed to appoint ambassadors as soon as possible.

A Bahraini Foreign Ministry statement said today that the decision is in harmony with the two states' desire to promote relations of friendship and cooperation to serve their mutual interests based on respect for international law, the UN Charter, and support for the Nonaligned Movement's principles. It is also based on the struggle for world peace and security and economic development, and for eliminating all forms of colonialism and racial discrimination.

Oman

Indian Official Conveys Message to Qabus, Leaves

JN1704143289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has received a written message from friendly Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dealing with the existing relations between the two friendly countries, current international developments, and issues of common interest. The message was handed to Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, when he received John Gonsalves, under secretary of the Indian Foreign Ministry, and his delegation in Muscat this morning.

The Indian Foreign Ministry undersecretary and his delegation left the country this afternoon after an official 1-day visit. He was seen off by His Excellency Ambassador Khamis ibn Hamad al-Bustaji, head of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Indian ambassador to the Sultanate.

Saudi Arabia

Envoy Rejects Afghanistan's UN Complaint

LD1804084189 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Saudi Arabia yesterday condemned the cor .plaint submitted by the ruling regime in Afghanistan to the UN Security Council as lacking both the legitimacy of the complainer and the objectivity of the complaint.

Addressing the Security Council, Saudi representative Ambassador Samir al-Shihabi stressed that the Kingdom, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, will continue to support the Afghan people and the Afghan Mujahidin until God grants them a clear victory in regaining their freedom and their country and establishing a regime which will bring them freedom, security, and peace under the Afghan provisional government.

The Saudi representative stressed in his address that the existing regime in Kabul lost the right to rule when it was reduced to the status of an armed guard protecting some of the major cities in Afghanistan.

The Kingdom pointed out that the Islamic people, to which the Afghan people belong, [passage indistinct].

Kuwait

Minister Says 'Citizens' Fighting in Afghanistan

LD1704131689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1215 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 17 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Monday said it was not new that citizens of Arab and Islamic countries were volunteering with the Afghan mujahidin.

He said that volunteers from several Arab and Islamic countries are fighting alongside the mujahidin, who have been engaging government forces for many years. Hence it was not surprising that Kuwaitis would be among them, he added.

Shaykh Sabah was answering questions by reporters on a news item circulated by a news agency that a Kuwaiti citizen had been captured by the Afghan Government forces while fighting in lines of the mujahidin and that he will stand trial today in Kabul.

The chief diplomat said that his ministry had made contacts with the Afghan Government and its charge d'affaires here to investigate the issue and (?ascertain) the indentity and nationality of the detainee.

Arab League Session on Lebanon To Resume 21 Apr
LD1804141989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1143 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 18 (KUNA)—The Arab League council will resume next Friday [21 April] its extraordinary session on Lebanon on the foreign ministers level at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis to discuss tragic developments in that Arab country, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad announced Tuesday. He told reporters that he pursued contacts with his Arab counterparts along with the consultations made by the league's secretary general, Chadli Klibi on the same issue.

Shaykh Sabah explained that the contacts and consultations yielded the approval of more than two [word indistinct] of the Arab countries so far to attend the meeting scheduled for coming Friday.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat is slated to leave for Tunis at the head of an official delegation on Thursday.

Shaykh Sabah, who is also heading an Arab committee of six on Lebanon, had called on the Arab countries yesterday to shoulder their responsibilities toward sisterly Lebanon, to adopt urgent measures to end the carnage there, to back Lebanese people in their ordeal and to extend all help possible.

The Arab League council had opened an extraordinary session last January to discuss the developments in Lebanon during which the committee was formed headed by Shaykh Sabah and grouping foreign ministers of Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and the Sudan. The council decided to consider their session open to follow up developments.

Since then, the committee led by Shaykh Sabah, had held five rounds of talks with various Lebanese parties in a bid to reach a formula solving their country's crisis including two rounds in Kuwait, two in Tunis and one in Damascus.

Shaykh Sabah Discusses Lebanon, Arab Unity
PM1804095689 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Apr 89 pp 16-17

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and chairman of the six-man good offices committee, in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Will the Arab six-man committee suspend its good offices aimed at ending the Lebanese crisis?

Shaykh Sabah: There can be no retreat after the positive steps made by the committee at the meetings in Tunis, Kuwait, and Tunis. The fourth stage will be no harder or more difficult than the previous stages which we have negotiated successfully. The warlike atmosphere has returned because some have begun to feel that the peace process has begun in earnest in Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Arab summit?

Shaykh Sabah: After Ramadan, God willing, unless certain developments occur.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the Security Council's position on the Lebanese events?

Shaykh Sabah: It has issued an important statement, but nobody is heeding it.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you faced with the possibility of sending Arab or international forces to Lebanon to supervise a cease-fire?

Shaykh Sabah: That is a decision for a unified, legitimate Lebanese government to make, not a divided government.

AL-HAWADITH: What about European efforts?

Shaykh Sabah: They are mere wishes.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the United States in earnest in its quest for a solution?

Shaykh Sabah: A solution with whom? The problem is with whom people will talk. Our role within the Arab committee is to fill the vacuum and find interlocutors in order to salvage Lebanon and its unity.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Soviet Union's role?

Shaykh Sabah: It is an assisting role, of course. The Soviet Union and Syria issued a joint statement which stressed their support for the committee and its efforts to salvage Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: Are there any efforts to unify the two Lebanese governments?

Shaykh Sabah: Our prime concern now is to secure a firm cease-fire and ensure that it is observed. No solution can be secured in the midst of military operations.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there a solution formula in the minds of the groups negotiating via mediation, or are there differing viewpoints?

Shaykh Sabah: We have not yet drawn up a final overview. Our task today is to investigate views and define a clear idea and then present it to everyone. One of the most noteworthy proposals is to fill the present constitutional vacuum.

AL-HAWADITH: If we reach a certain formula, will Lebanon recover quickly from its predicament?

Shaykh Sabah: It all depends on the Lebanese. They are a loving people and whatever happens among them cannot reach the stage of hatred. I believe that when the Lebanese as a whole—regardless of certain individuals—meet they will embrace one another and unite. But we must prepare a suitable atmosphere for them.

AL-HAWA/ADITH: Could an Arab crisis erupt among fraternal st states as a result of the situation in Lebanon?

Shaykh Sa abah: Our concern is to rescue Lebanon and end all in interventions. At this fourth stage we must concentrat te efforts on clearing the atmosphere and avoiding a any obstacles.

AL-HAWA ADITH: Could there be an international deterrent to silen ence the gun in Lebanon and to ensure peace by a certain ti time?

Shaykh Sab bah: That will be up to the Lebanese Government, if it i is ever set up, since it is the body concerned. Unless aske ed to do so, the committee will not request any deterrent fo force for Lebanon. That is for the president of the republi ic and the prime minister to decide.

AL-HAWA ADITH: Is the Arab League unanimous about the commit ittee's steps?

Shaykh Sab bah: Yes. The League has issued a statement of support for r the committee and urged that it be helped in continuing its efforts.

AL-HAWA ADITH: Are there any Arab obstacles?

Shaykh Sab bah: (Laughing) There are no obvious obstacles. And w we must be sincere.

AL-HAWA DITH: Let us talk about Arab affairs: How effective is t the Soviet Union's initiative for a solution to the Middle East problem, and is it destined to succeed?

Shaykh Sab bah: The chances of success are great and the situation is favorable, especially if the intifadah [uprising] in the West Bank continues and if the new regime continues to o hint that its thinking differs from that of the previous reg gime.

AL-HAWA DITH: Are you confident, or are these mere hopes?

Shaykh Saba ah: It is a wish.

AL-HAWA DITH: Will the new Arab groupings—namely, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Greater Maghreb Un nion—replace the Arab League and hinder its role, or is th is a way to a comprehensive Arab unity that could be est ablished some day?

Shaykh Saba ah: I believe that they all emanate from the Arab League e charter. There must be Arab blocs within the framewo ork of the League, without their replacing it.

AL-HAWA DITH: Do you expect the Gulf Cooperation Council [GC C] to achieve all its objectives, in view of its strong cohes ion and cooperation?

Shaykh Saba ah: We hope so. However, we have still not achieved all our objectives, but we will do so some day, God willing. European unity is 27 years old and still has not achieved all its objectives. We are 9 years old and we have achieved many things, praise God. But obviously we have more ambitions which I hope will be realized.

AL-HAWADITH: Are the borders between the GCC states entirely open, or is this the stage that precedes the full opening of borders? In other words, can the Gulf citizen cross borders on his identity card?

Shaykh Sabah: We have not yet reached that stage, but of course any GCC citizen can go anywhere without a visa. Among the priorities being considered by the foreign ministries of the GCC states is the question of approving the use of identity cards instead of passports.

AL-HAWADITH: There is talk about a cabinet reshuffle in Kuwait. How much truth is there in it?

Shaykh Sabah: I have not heard of it. Your are the first to inform me of it.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there a specific Gulf initiative to clear the Arab atmosphere and build an Arab stance based on true solidarity to confront the challenges facing the Arab people?

Shaykh Sabah: If there is Arab solidarity, challenges will be confronted. But the strong solidarity which we desire and aspire to still does not exist among the Arabs. But I believe the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under King Fahd is playing an effective role in this regard, and I hope it will succeed. As I said, the summit meeting will be held after the blessed month of Ramadan, God willing. And I hope that there will be an atmosphere of solidarity at the summit.

AL-HAWADITH: Will Egypt be invited to the summit?

Shaykh Sabah: A statement was issued by the Arab Cooperation Council that they would not accept an invitation if Egypt did not participate.

AL-HAWADITH: Can a summit conference be held without unanimity, or should unanimity be secured beforehand?

Shaykh Sabah: The league has met many times without unanimity. But Saudi Arabia is seeking to prepare a suitable atmosphere for the success of the summit. And I believe that now, after King Fahd's statement in Cairo, the atmosphere will be suitable for the rapprochement desired.

AL-HAWADITH: A final question: Will the six-man committee's mission end after the report is submitted to the Arab League Council and the file is referred to an Arab summit?

Shaykh Sabah: The committee's mission is not bound to a specific time or stage. It will end when Lebanon's predicament ends.

AL-HAWADITH: In your opinion, who carries out sabotage and plants explosives in the two Lebanese areas [East and West Beirut]?

Shaykh Sabah: Israel and its agents are present everywhere.

Egypt's Abu Ghazalah Arrives With Message

JN1704064889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a message last night from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the situation in Arab affairs.

Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, assistant to the Egyptian president, conveyed the message during a meeting with President Saddam Husayn.

This is Abu Ghazalah's first official activity outside Egypt since assuming his new post as assistant to the Egyptian president.

Abu Ghazalah also conveyed to President Saddam Husayn Mubarak's congratulations on the month of Ramadan and the 1st anniversary of the liberation of Al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of great victory.

He also conveyed Mubarak's wishes that Iraq will always celebrate this occasion while victory and peace prevail under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

President Saddam Husayn asked Abu Ghazalah to convey his greetings to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak as well as his wishes of good health. He expressed his hope that fraternal ties among the states of the Arab nation will be strengthened and their efforts to achieve prosperity, impregnability, and strength will be reinforced.

Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council member and vice president; and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Abu Ghazalah arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

Saddam Receives Ethiopian Envoy, Message

JN1404121189 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 14, INA—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on bilateral relations.

The message was delivered to President Husayn by member of the ruling Ethiopian Socialist Labour Party's Central Committee, Kasa Kebede, during an audience here yesterday.

Attending the audience were Iraq's defence minister, 'Adnan Khayrallah, information and culture minister, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, and the foreign undersecretary.

Ethiopian Cited on Visit

JN1604114489 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 16, INA—A senior visiting Ethiopian official said that establishing diplomatic ties between Iraq and Ethiopia will strengthen bilateral relations and support issues of liberation and progress in the Middle East region and Africa.

Relations between the two sides were resumed on February 11 last and the Foreign Ministries in both countries issued in this concern a statement in which they stressed their determination to expand bilateral cooperation to serve joint interests.

Mr. Kasa Kebede, member of the Central Committee of the Working People Party in Ethiopia said in a statement to INA here today that his visit to Iraq contributed to promote bilateral understanding.

He expressed his happiness for this visit which is paid amidst peace atmospheres achieved in Iraq due to the steadfastness of its national will and the rallying around the leadership that led Iraq to surpass all difficulties and remove the Iranian existence from Al- Faw.

The Ethiopian official stressed that his country fully realizes the high position of Iraq in fighting imperialism. He said that his country had been keen to support all Iraqi attitudes including Iraq's stand in the Iraq-Iran war despite the absence of bilateral diplomatic relations.

He added that his country is supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people and added that Ethiopia had ended the "Israeli" interests in it because "we know that Israel is a mean [as received] against the Arab revolution".

He stressed the importance given by his country to the Palestinian-Ethiopian relations in particular and to the Arab-Ethiopian relations in general.

He added that Ethiopia is supporting the Palestinian struggle, praising in this concern the visit by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat president of the State of Palestine, to Ethiopia at the beginning of this month.

He said that his country would not permit the migration of ten thousands to 15 thousands of Ethiopian Jews according to Zionist plans. But he added that his country is under pressure by the international Zionism and the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress in this concern.

He stressed that Ethiopia is determined to find a final solution to the Eritrean issue based, as he said, on autonomy in which the Eritreans run their social, economic and cultural affairs and they will have the right to choose Arabic as an official language for education and communications.

He appreciated Iraq's method in dealing with the Kurdish issue and added that his country had studied the Iraqi experience in treating the Kurdish question. He said that Iraq and Ethiopia are facing similar conditions in the field of confronting external aggression.

The Ethiopian official had arrived in Baghdad last Thursday and held a series of negotiations with Iraqi officials on bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Syrian 'Conspiracy' in Lebanon Criticized

JN1704104589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has affirmed that the killing, destruction, and burning carried out by Hafiz al-Asad's forces in Lebanon is a revenge unique in history against the Arab people in Lebanon.

In a statement to INA, the culture and information minister said that the burning, destruction, and annihilation practiced by the Syrian forces in Lebanon are part of a Zionist scheme to destroy the unity of Lebanon and the Arab nation.

He added that the reports flowing in affirm that Hafiz al-Asad's forces are now using every kind of lethal weapon. At the same time, artillery is heard in every part of Beirut, setting it ablaze with a fire that cannot be extinguished and preventing the rescue of citizens in the stricken areas.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that Hafiz al-Asad's forces are also trying to weaken the Lebanese resistance against Hafiz al-Asad's forces and other foreign forces.

Jasim added that the criminal Hafiz al-Asad's escalation of this shameful, terrorist, and sinister act—in cooperation with the Zionist and Iranian entities—clearly exposes the extent of the dirty conspiracy aimed at fragmenting Lebanon and perpetuating its fragmentation so that all Arab territory will be fragmented.

The culture and information minister called on all honest people in the world—intellectuals, thinkers, and politicians—to confront the agent regime of Hafiz al-Asad in Lebanon, expel his forces, and use all material and psychological methods of pressure against him.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim also called on the Arab nation to oppose the partition plot. He added that it is important not to allow Hafiz al-Asad, nor the Zionist entity, nor the Iranian regime to expand at the expense of Lebanese territory.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi minister said that this is a pan-Arab call to serve the Arab nation, protect Lebanon from the conspiracy against it, and stop the killing and burning carried out by Hafiz al-Asad's forces there.

Ramadan Meets With Visiting Romanian Minister

JN1604172489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received Eugen Radulescu, Romanian minister of machine building industry, in Baghdad today.

During the nmeeting, the first deputy prime minister reviewed the future of Iraq's economy as well as signs of progress in Iraq following the expansion and diversification of Iraq's economic relations with Arab and other countries.

He also stressed Iraq's satisfaction with its expanding relations with Romania and its desire to continue fruitful cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Radulescu praised the construction boom in Iraq, stressing the readiness of Romanian institutions to participate in development projects in Iraq.

He also expressed the Romanian leadership's pride in Romania's close relations with Iraq and its serious desire to open new spheres for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Yasir 'Arafat Departs After 3-Day Visit

JN1504150289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Baghdad this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; deputy director of the RCC's Arab Liberation Movements Bureau; and Foreign Ministry undersecretary.

Algerian Foreign Minister Departs 16 Apr

JN1604124789 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Boualem Bessaieh left Baghdad today following a 1-day visit to Iraq.

Boualem Bessaieh had earlier conveyed a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all spheres, the current situation in Arab affairs, and international issues of common interest.

The Algerian minister was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

UNIMOG Commander Arrives From Tehran 18 Apr

JN1804072089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIMOG], arrived here today from Tehran.

The Yugoslav general's visit is one of a series of shuttle visits between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the cease-fire in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Ministry Official Announces Military Fair

JN1504160989 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 15, INA—Iraqi Military Industrialization and Industry [Ministry] undersecretary has announced that 148 companies and 28 Arab and foreign states will take part in the Baghdad International Fair for Military Products.

The Iraqi official said in a press conference held here today that Iraq would exhibit for the first time more than 200 military products of various kinds.

He added that three Arab countries Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt would participate in the exhibition and that Egypt would show military production including helicopters.

Thirty five French firms specialized in military industries, aircraft and equipment would also take part in the fair, the Iraqi official said.

Shamir Pays 'Unannounced' Visit to Hungary

To Stay for 'Short Visit'

LD1704224289 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2200 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The Israeli prime minister has arrived in Budapest. Yitzhak Shamir is to stay in our country for a short visit.

Sources Hint at 'Full' Ties

TA1804054189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir arrived yesterday in Hungary on a previously unannounced 1-day visit. He is expected back in Israel today. There is speculation that the visit may lead to the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Jack Katzenell reports:

The prime minister flew to Hungary on a private aircraft, accompanied only by Justice Minister Dan Meridor, one of his closest political advisers. Meridor was closely involved in the previous contacts with Hungary, which led to the renewal of low-level diplomatic relations: the opening of interest sections in Budapest and Tel Aviv. Hungary recently denied a report emanating from the World Jewish Congress that the renewal of full relations was imminent. Budapest said Israel would first have to agree to an international conference on the Middle East and remove obstacles to Hungarian trade. Nevertheless, sources in Jerusalem said they will not be surprised if diplomatic relations were announced very soon, perhaps even today.

Hungary is said to be disappointed with the meager commercial benefits it has reaped from the low-level relations it already established with Israel. Apparently the Hungarians expected large-scale investment by American Jews in Hungary. On the other hand, Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon, on a recent visit to Budapest, declared that Israel could provide Hungary with access to American markets if it helped market Israeli goods in Eastern Europe.

Shamir's visit follows the visit to Israel this week of the Hungarian deputy foreign minister, Laszlo Kovacs. It is the prime minister's second visit to Budapest in 8 months. On his schedule are meetings with Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth and other senior officials. Shamir will certainly be explaining his Middle East peace initiative and raising bilateral issues, including the renewal of full diplomatic relations.

There has also been speculation that he would be meeting some important Arab or Palestinian personality or that Hungary was mediating in the Middle East peace process, but there has been no official confirmation of this.

Envoy to Hungary Interviewed

TA1804061689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Shlomo Marom, head of the interests office in Budapest, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] We now have Hungary on the line. Good morning, Shlomo Marom, the Israeli representative who heads the interests office and is perhaps soon to be an ambassador.

[Marom] Good morning, Mr Shalom Qital. It has been a long time since we spoke to each other.

[Qital] Yes, and I am glad to do so over the air. Have you met with the prime minister yet?

[Marom] Naturally. We met him at the airport last evening, and we drove together to the government guest house. The talks are due to start today.

[Qital] What can you tell us about the talks? What is their expected content?

[Marom] I do not know. Bilateral issues will probably be raised; other issues may be raised by the Hungarians. All this is still unclear at the moment.

[Qital] Why this secrecy? The prime minister and other ministers have already been to Hungary. Why did we learn about this particular trip as if it were a visit to a hostile country?

[Marom] You cannot say it is a hostile country.

[Qital] On the contrary, what I am saying is that the country is not hostile.

[Marom] There must have been a need for a meeting between the prime minister and the Hungarian party secretary general and prime minister. As I understand it, the visit was coordinated during the prime minister's visit to the United States, although it was deemed necessary to announce it only upon the prime minister's arrival.

[Qital] I would like to ask you two direct questions. The first one is: Will the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries be announced at the end of this visit?

[Marom] I do not know. The subject will most likely be raised, but I would not like to speculate on the results.

[Qital] My second question is: Can you tell us unequivocally that relations between Hungary and Israel are the topic of the visit and that this is not serving as a cover for anything else?

[Marom] As has happened before, other issues may be raised. We will hear today precisely what subjects the Hungarian side decides to raise. We may know more in the evening.

[Qital] Well, we will be pleased to talk with you again and perhaps with the prime minister, too. Good luck and happy holiday.

[Marom] Thank you, and the same to you.

'No Announcement' Expected

TA1804143889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has concluded his political discussions in Budapest. He is now visiting the local Jewish community.

Mr Shamir held a lengthy meeting this morning with Karoly Grosz, the general secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party; Prime Minister Nemeth; and Deputy Foreign Minister Kovacs. They discussed relations between Israel and East Bloc countries and the role designated to the East Bloc in the Middle East peace process.

Mr Shamir described the details of his political initiative to his interlocutors. They also discussed bilateral economic issues.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that no announcement on the renewal of full diplomatic relations between Israel and Hungary is expected at this stage. The process taking place between the two countries, however, is expected to lead to such an announcement in the near future.

Shlomo Marom, the director of the Israeli interests office in Budapest, told our political correspondent that an Israeli promise to recruit American businessmen to invest money in Hungary, and to make efforts to convince the U.S. Administration to grant Hungary a favored status identical to the one bestowed on Poland were also raised in the course of Shamir's talks.

The prime minister will conclude his visit to Budapest and return to Israel tonight.

Netanyahu on Relations

TA1804170389 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] The prime minister held a very dramatic, secret, and perhaps very strange visit. We would now like to learn what is behind the prime minister's visit to Budapest. In our Jerusalem studio is Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Good evening. Was it a lot of fuss about nothing?

[Netanyahu] I will leave it to the prime minister to describe in his own words the aims of the visit. I can tell you that relations with Hungary are being strengthened. A few days ago, we initialed two agreements on transportation and culture. Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Kovacs was here, and last Sunday we agreed to immediately begin negotiations on two more agreements on irrigation and taxes.

[Shilon] Are agreements on irrigation and taxes the reason for such a dramatic secret trip by the prime minister to Budapest?

[Netanyahu] Once again, I am not talking about the prime minister's trip. All I am saying is that the framework of relations is becoming stronger. I have no doubt that we will soon—I cannot say when—also be experiencing a renewal of diplomatic relations. It is a growing process not necessarily connected to the prime minister's trip.

[Shilon] Can you confirm the report we just heard that an official announcement on the renewal of relations will not be published today or tomorrow?

[Netanyahu] Look, I will not refer to the trip. I will only say that Hungary is very interested in strengthening ties with Israel, and we are also interested. There is no doubt that things are moving in that direction.

[Shilon] Can you try to go beyond Hungary to the Communist bloc. Does it portend something that is connected to the USSR and perhaps other communist countries?

[Netanyahu] Let us start with Hungary, because it really is linked to the Communist bloc. Something very important is happening there. It is important not only to Israel, but to the entire world. Hungary is trying to perform a bridging act between the traditional communist—totalitarian, if you wish—system, and a freer society in the economic and political spheres. You know that they were the first to develop private initiative in the economic sphere. Their economy would not shame any capitalist country. They are now trying to adopt a free approach in the political sphere. They want to hold free elections, which is something new. Without doubt they are also adopting an initiative in the international political sphere.

[Shilon] Can they be a bridge between us and Moscow?

[Netanyahu] They will be a bridge between the West and East, and in my view they will be the pioneering country in the East Bloc for all the countries that severed relations with us since the 6-Day War. I have no doubt that Hungary will be the first country to renew relations

with us. On the question of whether they are coordinating with Moscow: I have already said there is an independent approach or initiative, which is undoubtedly coordinated.

[Shilon] At one time Romania helped us to advance relations with the Arab countries. Can we also expect some sort of Middle East role from Hungary?

[Netanyahu] Look, any country that maintains diplomatic relations with us, in contrast to a bloc or blocs that do not—could potentially aid in this direction. Hungary is not an exception.

[Shilon] You say that because of concrete knowledge?

[Netanyahu] I am, of course, talking about possibilities.

[Shilon] But you are deputy foreign minister.

[Netanyahu] That is right. [passage omitted]

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Kovacs Visits

Arrives for Talks

LD1304220989 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs is in Israel for talks. On his arrival, the politician expressed the hope that his talks could contribute to the resumption of Hungarian-Israeli ambassadorial level relations. He added however, that in the interests of these, there is still a great deal to be done, and that the development of the situation in the Middle East must by all accounts be taken into consideration.

Views Obstacle to Ties

TA1404102889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 89 p 22

[Report by Dan Petreanu]

[Text] The main obstacles to the restoration of diplomatic ties between Hungary and Israel are economic and not political, according to Laszlo Kovacs, Hugary's deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Kovacs, confirming that the question of relations would be raised at a meeting in Jerusalem today with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, said that Hungary was "very pleased" with the increased tourism and trade between the two countries.

Some 30,000 Israelis visited Hungary last year, and the volume of trade between the two countries was $30 million. However, Hungary's trade with Arab countries—including Syria, Libya and Iraq—totalled $400 million.

"We don't want to endanger that without making sure that we get compensation in the form of more trade with Israel," he said.

Hungary is particularly interested in Israeli investment. "We are engaged in a serious effort to restructure our economy," Kovacs said, adding that it was "too dependent on metallurgy and mining—about where the Western European countries were 20 years ago."

He said that proposed reforms, which permit a multiparty system, would make Hungary "the first East Bloc country in which the Socialist party could actually fall from power."

However, he predicted that if elections were held today, the ruling Socialist Workers Party would get 30-40 percent of the vote and would form a coalition with the Social Democrats.

Hungary still aspires to "perfect communism," but that is "so far off that it would not stand in the way of an alliance with other parties."

He said he believed his country would stick to the Warsaw Pact, even if the opposition came to power, because "this is accepted as part of the status quo in Europe."

He said that the intifadah [uprising] and "the atrocities committed by the Israeli army" have "badly damaged" Israel's image among the Hungarian public, which believes that "the PLO has undergone significant changes" and that "the Palestinians should not be denied national rights."

Meets With Arens

LD1504014189 Budapest MTI in English 1948 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Tel Aviv, April 14 (MTI)—Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens met on Friday, Hungarian deputy foreign minister Laszlo Kovacs, currently paying an official visit to Israel. According to the briefing by the foreign affairs spokesman, held in Jerusalem, the two politicians discussed the operation of the representation offices set up 13 months ago.

Both sides expressed the intention to speed up the process of normalising relations and achieving full normalisation, the spokesman reported. He denied that the issue of establishing full diplomatic relations and its date were discussed at the meeting, and commented that "the experience of the past year was surveyed".

LD16041 **MTI Reports Talks**
16 Apr 8985989 Budapest MTI in English 1744 GMT
9

[Text] Te
garian del Aviv, April 16 (MTI)—Laszlo Kovacs, Hun-
between eputy foreign minister, paid a visit to Israel
Governm April 12 and 16 as the guest of the Israeli
Arens, Isment. Mr Kovacs was also received by Moshe
sraeli foreign minister.

Bilateral
between l relations were surveyed at discussions held
deputy fo Mr Kovacs and Benyamin Netanyahu, Israeli
Israeli Foreign minister, at which other members of the
since oporeign Ministry took part. The sides noted that
countriesening representation offices in each other's
has comns in March 1988, a high-level political dialogue
sion in trmenced. In addition, this period saw an expan-
and culturade and the development of techno-scientific
importantural cooperation. Both sides emphasized the
nce of the increasing two-way tourism.

The Hun
would be ngarian and Israeli negotiating partners felt it
for diploe mutually advantageous in the furthering of ties
re-establiomatic relations, broken off in 1967, to be
lished.

From the
eral relatie Hungarian side, it was emphasized that bilat-
current Isations could be promoted considerably if the
shift in Isisraeli trade barriers were abolished, and by the
region. Israel's attitude towards solving the crisis in the

Mr Kovac
Vashem racs took part at a wreath-laying ceremony at Yad
victims o museum, which keeps alive the memory of the
of nazism.

TA17041 **Summarizes Visit**
17 Apr 8933389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
89 p 1

[Text] "E
between 'Even if the resumption of diplomatic relations
because o Hungary and Israel is somewhat delayed
does not of matters that still require explanation, this
their desot mean that the two countries have renounced
uty Foreesire to achieve that goal," said Hungarian Dep-
reign Minister Laszlo Kovacs yesterday.

Winding
correspong up his working visit to Israel, Kovacs told our
establishondent that the two countries are striving to
althoughsh full diplomatic relations. He recalled that,
relationsgh no date has been set for the resumption of
had mems, Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth
presumeentioned the middle of the current year as the
ned deadline.

In the c
Minister course of his visit, Kovacs met with Foreign
Binyamiter Moshe Arens and Deputy Foreign Minister
min Netanyahu.

He further told our correspondent that Hungary wishes to tie the resumption of relations with a series of cooperation agreements in the spheres of trade, culture, and tourism. He added that this was met with understanding by his Israeli interlocutors, as was Hungary's request that Israel lift the restrictions and customs regulations that put Hungarian trade with Israel at a disadvantage compared to its trade with other countries.

Our correspondent has learned from knowledgeable sources that the resumption of relations between Israel and Hungary may be agreed upon in high-level talks, possibly during Prime Minister Shamir's second visit to Budapest. This report, however, has not been officially confirmed.

Austria Plans To Downgrade Bilateral Ties
TA1804112989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Austria intends to replace its current ambassador in Tel Aviv with a permanent charge d'affaires, effectively downgrading its relations with Israel, officials in Jerusalem confirmed last night.

The Austrian move, expected to take place in the summer, comes two and a half years after a similar Israeli step in the wake of Kurt Waldheim's election to the Austrian presidency.

An Austrian Foreign Ministry official this week told Gid'on Yarden, the charge d'affaires in Vienna, that the Austrian government cannot appoint a full-fledged ambassador so long as Israel refuses to do so. He added, however, that the move should not be perceived in Jerusalem as an indication of Austrian displeasure with Israel.

In October, 1986, in protest over Waldheim's election, Yarden replaced ambassador Mikha'el Elitzur, and Jerusalem asked Vienna not to reciprocate. The Austrians instructed their ambassador here, Dr. Otto Pleinert, to remain at his post.

A Salzburg paper reported that Vienna would send a senior diplomat as charge d'affaires in order to underline the fact that it wishes to maintain good relations.

Foreign Ministry sources said last night that Israel is unlikely to appoint an ambassador as long as Waldheim remains president. Therefore, they added, the two countries are likely to maintain representation at the charge d'affaires level for the foreseeable future.

Report on Downgrade Denied

TA1804120589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Now to Austria where there have been reports that Vienna intends to downgrade its ties with Jerusalem. But our Vienna reporter Lucien Meisels downplays that story:

A spokesman of the Austrian Foreign Ministry has emphatically denied that his government had decided formally to downgrade its mission in Israel to the level of charge d'affaires, equivalent to Israel's representation in Vienna. It is freely admitted, though, that the current Austrian ambassador in Israel, Otto Pleinert, who has been in Tel Aviv for 8 years, was getting a bit tired at his present post.

This coming summer, the big shake-up is due in the Austrian Foreign Service, and it is regarded as possible that Pleinert may apply for a cooler job somewhere in Europe. If he does that it would be difficult—so it is stated here—to deny his application.

In that case the job of ambassador in Tel Aviv would be posted as a vacancy, available for other candidates. However, the Foreign Ministry circles admitted that it would be difficult to send another full ambassador to Israel as long as no Israeli ambassador had arrived in Vienna. The post in Tel Aviv would not be downgraded, but might be left vacant for some time. However, this was no problem for the immediate future.

Members of Shamir Plan Committee Revealed

TA1604065589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister will report this morning to the Cabinet on his political talks in Washington. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that, after the Cabinet debate, Mr Shamir will form a committee made up of ministers and experts to work out the plan for elections in the territories.

Political sources have said that the committee will include the prime minister; the defense minister, who has jurisdiction over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; the justice minister, who will be in charge of the legal side of the plan; and another minister from the Alignment Party.

Jerusalem has expressed satisfaction with the U.S. Administration's efforts to enlist European public opinion to support the notion of elections in the territories and to prevent the European countries from hindering the implementation of the plan.

Work Teams Set Up To Examine Election Dilemmas

TA1804080689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Text] Work teams which have been set up in the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry are now formulating a series of answers to and ideas on several dilemmas already encountered in connection with elections in the territories. The working papers prepared by these teams will provide answers for alternative modes of election processes, the number of electoral regions and candidates, and the demands the candidates will have to meet. These working papers will provide answers for possible future connection between those elected and the PLO.

One question, for instance, is: What will the authorities do if the elected candidates request to leave for Tunis to receive instructions? That would put us in the position of being aware of their affiliation with that organization. The papers will determine the elected persons' authority and whether they will be able to engage in self-government and in spheres over and beyond that.

These work teams will also provide various alternatives for the way the election process can be carried out by East Jerusalem Arabs, if they are allowed to participate. They will also address the question of a cessation of terrorism—that is, when terror and violence in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip should cease, in relation to the election date.

In any event, the Inner Cabinet convenes tomorrow. If this issue is raised—the prime minister may prefer to deal with Israel's relations with East Europe tomorrow—the prime minister will, first of all, attempt to allay opposition among his colleagues, Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i. After that he will raise the issue of establishing an expert committee composed of members of the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense, Interior, Foreign, and Justice Ministries. The committee will process the plan and submit it to the Inner Cabinet.

IDF Orders Lahd Not To Help Beirut Christians

TA1704093289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in southern Lebanon this week clarified to General Lahd, commander of the SLA [South Lebanese Army], that Israel insists that the SLA not intervene—even indirectly—in the battles between the Syrian Army and the Christians in northern Lebanon. This step was taken following desperate appeals by the Christians to the SLA commander for aid. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Gen Lahd reacted to Israel's decision with obvious dissatisfaction, but accepted it.

Golan Druze Mark Syrian Independence Day

TA1704190689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Today was Syria's national day, and it was marked—as in the past—on the Golan Heights by demonstrations by Druze residents. Ken Persing was there:

Chanting "With blood and spirit we will liberate the Golan," several hundred teenagers and school-age children wearing keffiyehs and carrying Syrian flags squared off against police early this morning in the Golan Druze village of Majdal Shams. The demonstration marked the village leadership's failure to persuade residents not to confront the police. The illegal demonstration dispersed without incident as a contingent of Druze began a 1-month visit to Syria, marking Syrian independence day.

The Shouting Hill, on the border between Syria and Israel, was packed with over 1,000 Syrians. Some chanted anti-Israeli slogans, including "The Golan is Syrian territory" and "The intifadah [uprising] will come to the Golan Heights."

A larger demonstration started in the Majdal Shams town square at noon. This, too, ended quietly.

Last year, in a day-long battle, police fired catalyst tear gas canisters at rock-throwing demonstrators in the village. This year the atmosphere was tense, but devoid of tear gas and rocks.

Jordan Reactivates Ministries in Territories

TA1804151989 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Apr 89 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Jordan has reactivated some of the government ministries it had abolished in the territories, and has restored the signing authority to its senior officials in the West Bank.

As will be recalled, Jordan abolished its ministries in the territories after it declared its dissociation, and at the same time it concentrated some secular powers in the hands of the Supreme Islamic Council. Last week, however, Jordan surprisingly summoned its former senior officials in the territories to Amman. Following this move, in the last few days several of its ministries, such as health and education, have resumed partial operation.

Our correspondent notes that this move is connected with Jordan's fear of a separate "deal" between the PLO and Israel, with U.S. mediation, which would put an end to the chances for renewing the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. Despite its basic opposition to elections in the territories, Jordan wants to maintain its position in case elections are held in order to have the status of observer or supervisor. [passage omitted]

Merhav: Egypt Not Opposed to Shamir Plan

TA1704123689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 89 p 4

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] Egypt does not oppose Prime Minister Shamir's plan to hold elections in the territories. This was reported yesterday by Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav.

As will be remembered, last Saturday Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expressed his support for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's remarks unequivocally rejecting the concept of elections under Israeli rule.

Merhav, who met yesterday with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in Cairo, presented "the Shamir plan," which according to his report to Jerusalem, aroused "curiosity" with regard to its details, but not criticism or total rejection.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid wished to know, among other things, how and toward what purpose the elections would be held. He did not define his position regarding the Israeli plan. It appears that he wished to form an initial impression and to learn details of the final target Israel had set for itself.

"The Egyptians have raised no objections to elections. On the contrary: I think they will support the idea as soon as they become convinced that this is the only way to promote the peace process," said Merhav.

Egyptian Reaction 'Sympathetic'

TA1804124889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on 18 April; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Merhav, you returned from Egypt tonight, following talks with Egyptian Administration representatives. You were, in fact, the Egyptian Administration's first contact with the prime minister's initiatives. Can you tell us how Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid reacted to the election idea?

[Merhav] I held two quite lengthy talks with him, during which I had an opportunity to elaborate extensively on the prime minister's four-point plan and to receive the Egyptians' reaction. I must note that the reaction was positively sympathetic. They listened with great interest to the ideological and historical details of the four points and expressed their strong hope that the issue of elections will bring about progress in the peace process. I explained—and I think the point was taken—that the only way to change the situation is through a process that would be launched by elections.

[Ben-'Ami] Could you tell whether the Egyptians would be willing to help or even pressure the Palestinians and the PLO not to hinder this process?

[Merhav] I think the Egyptians realize they have an important role here. This brings me back to the second of the prime minister's four points, which is a renewed vigorous commitment to the Camp David process and to the principles of the Camp David accords. Egypt understands that our two countries constitute the foundation on which any future settlement will be built.

[Ben-'Ami] Is the impression, then, positive?

[Merhav] The impression is positive—cautiously so, of course. I would like to stress here that we made some progress on bilateral issues. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] Since we are on the eve of Passover when many tourists will head southward, perhaps we can hear something about the sailing arrangements? Will Israelis be able to sail in the Gulf of Aqaba?

[Merhav] The difficulty with the Gulf of Aqaba is that according to the present arrangements, there is no port of entrance from its northern section. I believe this point will be settled, although it may take some time. Such things tend to take time; they are not simple in Israel, either. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 18 April in a related report by Menahem Shalev on page 12 adds that "Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has [asked] that Israel intercede to remove the Dayr al-Sultan section of Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre from the control of the Ethiopian Church and restore it to the Egyptian Coptic Church," but "Jerusalem is reluctant to intervene because it must balance its good relations with Egypt with the sensitive—and constantly improving—relations with Ethiopia, and concern for Jews still there. 'Abd al-Majid also demanded that Israel allow refugees who are currently in the so-called Canada Camp, on the Egyptian side of the Gaza Strip, to be reunited with their families inside the Strip."]

Agreement With U.S. on 'Star Wars' Project
TA3103151689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The United States and Israel have signed an agreement for the establishment of a computerized research center in Israel that will develop systems in the framework of the Star Wars project. Some $35 million will be invested in the center over the next 5 years, with the United States financing over 70 percent of it.

Link With Johannesburg Term
TA0504115389 Jerusalem Domesti
1100 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe A
report that he personally prevented
cities agreement between Rishon
nesburg. Arens told reporter Jac
learned about the matter from the

However, Foreign Ministry official
Leziyyon Mayor Me'ir Nitzan tha
quite inappropriate at this time, wh
to scale down its relations with
background of Jerusalem's rejecti
apartheid.

South African Envoy Denies Mil
TA1404064589 Jerusalem Domestic
0500 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] South Africa's Ambassador
since Jerusalem put restrictions on t
trade between the countries has act
he says that military cooperation b
Jerusalem has stopped.

Speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv,
Viljoen said that export from South
unchanged, but that there has been
products from Israel to South Africa

Herzog, Peres, Arens Send Cond
TA1604165689 Jerusalem Domestic
1600 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President
wire expressing condolences to Queen
wake of the disaster at Sheffield. He
myself and the Israeli nation, please
condolences for the tragic loss of lives

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres se
condolences to British Prime M
Thatcher, while Foreign Minister Mo
to his counterpart, Sir Geoffrey How

Shamir Facing Growing Likud Cr
TA1804115489 Jerusalem THE JERU
in English 18 Apr 89 pp 1, 12

["Analysis" by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir
to growing Likud criticism of his pro
in the territories by asserting that "th
make sure that Israel remains in co
developments."

ed 'Inappropriate'
ic Service in English

rens has denied the
the signing of a twin
Leziyyon and Johan-
k Katzenell he had
newspapers.

s did inform Rishon
t the agreement was
en Israel had decided
South Africa on the
on of the policy of

litary Cooperation
Service in English

to Israel says that
ies with his country,
ually increased, but
etween Pretoria and

Ambassador Johan
Africa to Israel was
a sharp increase in
.

olences to UK
Service in Hebrew

Herzog today sent a
Elizabeth II in the
wrote: On behalf of
accept our heartfelt
at Sheffield.

nt a similar wire of
Minister Margaret
she Arens sent one
e.

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SALEM POST

yesterday reacted
osals for elections
e government will
mplete control of

Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, the prime minister ruled out the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections, as well as a proposed withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defence Forces] from Arab population centres.

In Washington last week, Shamir refused to reject any and all suggestions concerning the elections, saying that "everything is open to negotiation." Yesterday, however, he addressed the widespread apprehension which his proposals have aroused among right-wing politicians, including some of his own supporters.

Well-placed sources in the Likud said yesterday that opposition to elections inside the Likud cuts across the party's political camps, dividing many rank-and-file supporters of the camp headed by Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

In this context, the sources said, the position taken by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi might eventually turn out to be crucial to securing Likud support for Shamir.

Levi, who has traditionally held relatively moderate views on matters related to the peace process, surprisingly joined Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i on Sunday in expressing vocal opposition to Shamir's proposals. Levi, Moda'i and Minister Ari'el Sharon belong to what Likud activists term "the frustrated group," who were disappointed by Shamir's advancement of Arens to the foreign affairs portfolio, and by his clear preference for the trio of new young ministers—Roni Milo, Ehud Olmert and Dan Meridor.

Sharon and Moda'i hope to capitalize in the future on Likud members' opposition to any and all concessions by consistently expressing hard-line views.

Levi, for his part, is taking the opportunity to signal to Shamir that he is simply no longer willing to be ignored.

Levi, the sources said, is seeking a political gesture from Shamir in exchange for his support—in the form, for example, of the long-awaited fulfillment of Shamir's promise to appoint Levi's supporter Eliyahu Ben-Elisar to the Cabinet.

The Shamir-Arens camp enjoys a clear majority in the Likud Central Committee. The newly-added Liberal delegates are thought to be evenly split between Moda'i followers and supporters of Ministers Moshe Nisim and Gid'on Pat, who are inclined to follow Shamir.

If and when the election proposal reaches the decision-making stage, Sharon, Chairman of the Central Committee, is unlikely to let Shamir skirt that body's decision-making authority. And in the Committee, Shamir is likely to need all the help he can get—including that of the small but loyal Levi camp.

Most, if not all, of the old-school, hard-line Herut delegates—those still termed "the Jabotinsky group"—belong to the Shamir-Arens camp. When the day of decision comes, these Committee delegates will be torn between their ideological aversion to elections—which they see as inevitably leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state—and their realization that a vote against Shamir could result in defeat for their own camp and in irreparable damage to Aren's chances in the battle for succession.

Ten years ago, these same hard-liners were led by Shamir and Arens in the inner-Likud battle against the Camp David Accords brought from Washington by then-Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Shamir told the committee yesterday that "there is nothing new in the elections proposals, because they exist in the Camp David Accords. There is only a slight change in their timing."

But it is this "slight change" that most worries Likudniks. For in his new scheme, Shamir countenances elections before the terms of the autonomy are negotiated and agreed.

They fear that elections could turn Camp David from a concept which could be publicly supported—as long as it remained unfulfilled—into a process which may become unstoppable once started.

An aide to the prime minister conceded yesterday that there is talk in Herut of the "Beginization of Yitzhaq Shamir." He added, however, that the worry is unwarranted, because the prime minister has not changed.

In any case, the aide appeared unperturbed at the prospect of Likud opposition to the prime minister. "Shamir," he said, "hasn't lost a battle yet."

Peres' Leadership Not Challenged at Meeting

TA1704184989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpts] At the Labor Party [LP], Central Committee members continue their discussion of the party's defeat in the Knesset and municipal elections; but, as Le'a Zinder reports, the expected challenge to Shim'on Peres' leadership has not materialized:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] The real story at today's LP Central Committee meeting is the one that did not happen. The anticipated onslaught on the leadership of Shim'on Peres never materialized, and the tension within the party in advance of the meeting has evaporated in the course of the day.

One speaker after another comes to the podium to address the Central Committee, but no one has openly challenged Peres, and those who criticized him had been received largely without enthusiasm. [passage omitted]

Peres himself was greeted warmly with sustained rhythmic applause. He said he believed that, in trying to save the kibbutzim, he was fulfilling a vital national mission.

Shim'on Peres, obviously well pleased with the day's developments, dismissed the possibility of an inquiry into the electoral failures of the LP.

[Peres] I did not hear anybody who asked it. I read it in the papers. I did not hear anybody asking it.

[Zinder] And what is your view of those people in the LP who have already said that they will challenge you for the leadership of the party?

[Peres] Welcome to the club. Let them fight it out.

[Zinder] Although the issue of the vaunted committee of inquiry into Labor's electoral failures has hardly come up in the course of the day, it is interestingly enough supported by party Secretary General Mikha Harish. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Organization, Life in Detention Camps Detailed

TA1404140589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 89 p B3

[Report by Ori Nir and Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, over 20,000 young Palestinians have undergone training for the Palestinian national movement sponsored and financed by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. Although each of the detainees in the large detention facilities established in the intifadah [uprising] era has suffered personally from loss of freedom and harsh prison conditions, the Palestinian national struggle as a whole has profited.

So far, some 14,000 young people from every sector of the Arab population, from every West Bank and Gaza Strip township, have been released from detention camps. In the past, the role of the "former detainees," as they are dubbed in IDF jargon, was to serve as a symbol of and inspiration for the Palestinian national struggle. Nowadays, the intifadah's ex-detainees are the main cadres of the continuing struggle.

The method by which the IDF and the military police (responsible for setting down the regulations in this sphere) run the large detention camps favors minimal intervention in the detainees' daily life. In fact, IDF soldiers mainly guard the detention camps' fences. Within the tent area, the detainees—guided by their elected leadership—maintain full autonomy. As in other instances of national struggle, the intifadah detention camps have turned into a melting pot, into assimilation and education camps.

The IDF spokesman and other official military elements refused either to assist us in the preparation of this report or to explain the IDF's policy with respect to the intifadah detainees' internal organization and the long-term impact thereof. This report is based on data collected from reservists who were employed as guards in the detention facilities and from an interview with a leader of the detainees. [passage omitted]

The detainees' internal organization encompasses a wide range of activities: food distribution, the arrangement of cleaning shifts, settling of internal quarrels, the organization of sports activities, and in-depth political instruction. Every detail of the inmates' life is subject to discipline imposed by the leaders and the committees appointed by them, which organize the detainees' lives from the time they wake up to lights-out time. Prison authorities accept the leaders; in fact, they use them to maintain quiet behind the fences. Thus, somewhat paradoxically, the IDF even reinforces the leaders' authority. [passage omitted]

One of the detainees' problems is the internal communication between the various detention facilities and the transfer of up-to-date information on events outside the prison. The solution they have come up with is in spirit with the intifadah. When they realized that the prison authorities can follow messages shouted from one ward to another, they decided to change the method. They tied notes to rocks, which they threw from one detention facility to another. [passage omitted]

As time went by, the detainees decided to set up an internal leaflet called Ansar-3. The articles and reports are relayed through the "internal mail," and are subsequently copied into a brochure at each facility.

In their tents, the detainees hold lectures and debates on various subjects. Occasionally one of the detainees, who is proficient in Hebrew or English, gives his fellow detainees oral translations of articles and reports from the press. Observant Muslims maintain a regime of prayers and religious sermons, and everyone takes part in political debates. [passage omitted]

A central problem hindering the organization of internal life in prison is the political splintering of Palestinian movements. In the past, security detainees, who were members of cells related to various Palestinian organizations, were unequivocally identified with definite organizations. Most intifadah detainees belong to "local organizations," which are not necessarily identified with one of the Palestinian organizations. Furthermore, "national unity," which has become a supreme intifadah value, contradicts the tendency toward factionalism and separatism characteristic of organizations.

Nevertheless, ideological differences are very prominent in the intifadah detention camps. The detainees have solved this problem by setting up joint committees in

various spheres of responsibility. Each of these committees includes representatives of the various streams: Fatah (the most dominant of all the organizations), Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], and the left-wing fronts. The committees operate in all the detention facilities, but the internal organization exists even in each and every tent.

There are few contacts between soldiers and inmates. There is a head count in the morning and evening (in some camps during the day, also). Furthermore, detainee representatives receive food and other supplies from the prison management; a military physician or medic examines inmates complaining of ailments in accordance with an accepted routine or upon special call. [passage omitted]

No one harbors the illusion that the internal organization patterns established by the intifadah detainees can be destroyed. In the past, some prison authority heads tried and failed to disband the security prisoners' internal organization. If that failed, similar attempts in the mass detention camps run by the IDF are even more doomed to failure. The instruction and indoctrination the Palestinian youths receive from adult detainees in the military detention facilities are an unavoidable by-product of the forced concentration of thousands of people who are active partners in a national uprising. This is a familiar phenomenon in other cases in history in which nations waged a struggle for independence against foreign rule.

The political awareness of these youths, who regain their freedom after several months in the atmosphere of the detention camps, is incomparably greater than before their detention. Their self-esteem grows, and they return to their towns as local heroes. In many cases, they try to justify their stay in prison retroactively, perhaps even take revenge, by resuming their protest activities with greater vigor. Numerous detainees who had been detained on petty charges, such as stone throwing, tire burning, and other such "intifadah offenses," emerged from prison as leading activists. Thousands of such youths turn gradually into the engine leading the train of the continuing uprising.

Arab Notables' Travel Allowed Under New Policy

TA1704123589 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Apr 89 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] The defense establishment has permitted Shahir Sa'd, secretary general of the West Bank Trade Unions Federation, to leave for Egypt.

The permission is in accordance with the recently adopted policy enabling Palestinian notables whose departure had been prevented for a long time to travel abroad. It was preceded by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni's appeal to the Defense Ministry to allow Shahir Sa'd to leave the country.

Two notables are currently in Egypt: Faysal al-Husayni, director of East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies, and Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an. The two have met with a number of Egyptian politicians, including the foreign minister, to discuss the issue of elections in the territories. According to them, they presented their interlocutors with new ideas on the subject.

It has been learned that the official reason for Shahir Sa'd's trip to Egypt is a meeting with representatives of Egyptian trade unions. He intends to visit Britain and Italy later for a similar purpose.

Erez To Allow Arab Doctors in Territories

TA1704184589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria is willing to allow doctors from Arab countries to work in hospitals in the area. This morning Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in the area, met with heads of the hospitalization system in Judaea and Samaria, and suggested that the dependence of the local medical system on its Israeli counterpart be made smaller. To do this, he said, the Civil Administration is willing to install modern medical equipment in hospitals there and allow medical experts from Arab countries to operate them.

Bomb Squad Handled 3,000 Incidents in 1988

TA1404115489 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] ITIM—Over 3,000 incidents linked to Arab nationalism which took place in 1988 required the intervention of the police bomb squad, which also dealt with some 200 criminal incidents.

These figures were provided by Assistant Commander Shlomo Aharoniski, head of the Police Demolition Unit, at a ceremony marking Demolition Experts Day which took place Wednesday night at Bet Berl, near Kefar Sava.

Assistant Commander Aharoniski pointed out that that the bomb squad responded to 80,000 calls about suspicious objects and explosives at various locations during the past year. It initiated 40,000 inspections at central locations and in schools.

Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev and Police Commission David Kraus praised the dozens of police sappers for their courage and devotion to duty despite the risks involved.

Interior Ministry Cuts Funds for Arab Councils

TA1604094389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Apr

[Text] The Interior Ministry has cut back grants to Arab councils in which strikes took place on Land Day. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that calculations of the cuts were based on the wages paid for municipal and educational services.

Palestinians

TA180411408 **Claim 567 Deaths in 'Uprising'**
18 Apr 89 p 5 9 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew

[Text] The pas
were killed. t week has been a bloody week; 12 people

On Sunday, 1
spokesman re6 April, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]
killed in the ported that 341 Palestinians have been
only those kill occupied territories. This figure includes
ed by IDF firearms.
According to H
been killed. IA'OLAM HAZE figures, 455 people have

Palestinian sou
people have be rces, on the other hand, claim that 567
en killed:
—386 killed by
/ IDF soldiers' and settlers' shots.
—74 died as a
result of inhaling gas.
—45 died of be
atings and electrocution.
—62 died of ot
her causes.

Hebron Settle

TA1704185689 **rs To Institute 'Readiness' System**
1800 GMT 17 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
pr 89

[Text] Jewish se
a system of re ttlers in Hebron have decided to institute
would be called diness under which eight men on alert
forces arrive. up to deal with any attacks until security

A spokesman fo
residents would some of the settlers said scores of Jewish
on Fridays, and be posted outside Jewish sights in Hebron
dogs would be used to assist them.

Further on Inc

idents, Casualties in Territories

2

TA1804065389 **Killed, 3 Hurt in Gaza**
0600 GMT 18 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
pr 89

[Excerpts] [Pass
night in the Za ge omitted] In a serious incident last
residents were s tun neighborhood in Gaza, two Arab
According to th ot to death and three others wounded.
Defense Forces information gathered so far, the Israel
The IDF spokes IDF] were not involved in the incident.
tion of the two nan's office has said that the assassina-
of suspected col nd wounding of the three was the result
gation, however aboration with Israel. The IDF investi-
has not been completed yet.

This morning,
refugee camp a curfew is in force on the Jabalyah
[passage omitte d the Masru'a neighborhood in Gaza.
]

Three Arabs were wounded in other disturbances. A boy from the Al-Fari'ah refugee camp in the Nabulus District was slightly wounded in the leg and brought to Al-Ittihad Hospital. A youth from the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp and a Tulkarm resident were wounded by IDF gunfire.

The 16-year-old resident of Nahhalin who has been missing since the incident in his village last Thursday has been located. He was held in a detention camp in Hebron, where he was identified by his uncle and subsequently released.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night at an Israeli vehicle near the settlement of Efrat on the outskirts of Bethlehem. No damage was caused and there were no casualties. The IDF launched searches after the perpetrators.

Nabulus Curfew Lifted

TA1804082889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The curfews on Nabulus and the adjoining refugee camps were lifted this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew was imposed last Saturday [15 April] to prevent disturbances on the anniversary of the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil Abu Wazir] in Tunis.

The curfews on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp and on Jabalyah in Gaza remain in force.

Nabulus Woman Murdered

TA1804094189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Nadira Bulus, a 42-year-old Nabulus woman, was stabbed to death last night. Sources in Nabulus told our correspondent Arye Gus that she had been attacked several times in the past on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. She was also accused of prostitution.

A general strike ordered by the Unified National Command of the Uprising is in force today in Judaea and Samaria. The official reason for the strike was defined as a protest over the confiscation of residents' cars by the security forces. Our correspondent reports, however, that the anniversary of the death of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis is being marked in numerous locations. Last night, several Judaea and Samaria towns staged processions and rallies at which prayers were said in his memory.

In Kennedy Forest, near Jerusalem, three Arabs were detained on suspicion of setting pine trees on fire. Our police affairs correspondent, Moshe Nussbaum, reports that a forest supervisor sighted the three as they were running from the site. He chased them while firing several shots in the air and detained two of them. They are from the village of Battir. The third suspect, from the village of Walajah, was detained by the police in the course of searches.

Stockpiling of Firearms Urged

TA1804121589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Apr 89 p A1

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen, Avino'am Bar-Yosef, and Ehud Rabinowitz]

[Excerpt] A new phenomenon in the Gaza Strip: During the past few days, slogans have been painted in many places in the Gaza Strip calling on the inhabitants to stockpile firearms. Security elements believe that Fatah is responsible for these slogans, the purpose being to prepare itself for the possibility that its efforts to continue the uprising will fail, in which case it will give the order to start using firearms. Meanwhile, the significance of the new phenomenon is being studied.

Several days ago, one of the PLO leaders said: "The inhabitants of the territories possess a lot of weapons." [passage omitted]

Consumer Price Index Up 0.5 Percent

TA1404124089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The consumer price index [CPI] went up by 0.5 percent in March, which means that the increase since the beginning of the year is 16.9 percent. The relatively low index for last month was due to a seasonal drop of an average 7 percent in the price of fruit and vegetables. There was also a seasonal drop of 1.7 percent in the price of clothing and footwear. On the other hand, there was a 1.3-percent increase in household expenses and 2.1-percent for education, culture, and entertainment.

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres said the March CPI figure proves that single-digit inflation is possible by the end of the year and that the economic goals are feasible. He described these goals as economic growth through an increase in production and exports and strengthening economic stability. He pointed out, however, that he shares the concern voiced over the high rate of unemployment, but believes that economic growth might improve the situation.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar said he welcomes the low CPI, but it is the result, among other things, of the recent economic slowdown. He told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch that the thousands of unemployed will find it hard to celebrate Passover. Qeysar called on the government not to initiate price increases.

Industrialists Association President Dov Lautman expressed satisfaction with the low CPI figure. He told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that it shows that the devaluation was not an inflationary factor and that last year the government implemented an economic policy which sacrificed exports for stability and seriously hurt the balance of payments.

Interior Minister Discusses New Electoral Law

JN1704145289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani has said that the law amending the House of Representatives' electoral law was passed to reflect Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

Al-Dajani said that another purpose of the law was to silence those who spread suspicions and rumors and who responded to the disengagement decision with explanations and interpretations at times, and with suspicions and falsehoods at others.

In an interview with PETRA, he said that this amendment has canceled the electoral constituencies from the West Bank and the seats allocated to it in the East Bank, which constituted 11 seats for 11 constituencies representing the populated centers called the Palestinian camps. These centers have been amalgamated into the original electoral constituencies and are no longer independent electoral constituencies. Their inhabitants will practice the right to vote and run for elections like other citizens without discrimination, he said.

In answer to a question, Al-Dajani said that the amending law preserved the form and context of the previous election law, which both houses of the parliament had unanimously approved. He said that the amendment tackled two issues:

First, the procedures to clarify and adjust matters. The second is the table of constituencies and the seats allocated to them so that the law will be in accord with the decision of legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank and reinforce the independence of Palestinian representation in the Palestinian territory.

Answering a question on the legal status of those who carry a yellow card, the minister asserted that the citizens who carry this card—which means that its holder has a family reunion card and has the right to return and reside in the West Bank at any time he desires—is a Jordanian citizen who has full rights and obligations. This person practices the right to vote and run for elections like all citizens without discrimination so long as he chooses Jordan as the place of his normal residence and the homeland in which he seeks refuge. However, if he chooses otherwise, he will no longer be a Jordanian citizen.

The minister announced that arrangements for forming the registration committees will be drafted immediately. These committees will be distributed in the electoral constituencies and begin their functions after this is announced immediately after the 'Id al-Fitr holiday. He added that voters will be reregistered in light of the provisions of the new amendment which was based on the new situation arising in the electoral constituencies in the East Bank after the camps constituencies were canceled and amalgamated into the original constituencies.

The minister added that the registration process will continue until the end of July. Applications from citizens will then be received to register those who reached the legal age for elections—19 years—on 31 July. The tables will be adjusted to cancel the deceased, the imprisoned, and others who do not have the right to vote according to the provisions of the law.

Further on Electoral Law

JN1704112089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Manama 17 Apr (WAKH)—Jordanian Interior Minister Raja' al-Dajani has announced that parliamentary elections will not take place before the end of this year. In a statement to WAKH in the wake of the issuance of the royal decree on the electoral law yesterday [as received], Al-Dajani said that the new law has reduced the number of deputies from 142, representing the East and West Banks on an equal footing, to 72 deputies, representing all the sons of Jordan.

Minister al-Dajani noted that the new law was announced after it was discussed at the Council of Ministers on Saturday. New amendments have been introduced to the law. The amendments cancelled the [refugee] camps as constituencies affiliated with the West Bank and incorporated them into the constituencies in Jordan.

Al-Dajani said that registration for the elections will begin after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr [feast marking the end of Ramadan on 6 or 7 May]. This process is expected to continue until October.

Government Raises Fuel, Other Commodity Prices

JN1604100089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 1, 16

[Text] Amman - AL-RA'Y — In a meeting yesterday evening chaired by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the Council of Ministers decided to adjust the prices of certain goods and commodities in implementation of the Council of Ministers' decision to tackle the budget deficit by increasing the resources of the treasury and controlling expenditure.

Taking the recommendations of the finance, planning, trade, industry, and supplies committees into consideration, the Council of Ministers agreed to their recommendations to adjust the prices of the following commodities as of Sunday 16 April.

Fuel:

A cylinder of butane gas shall be increased from 1 Jordanian Dinar [JD] 800 fils to 2 JD.

One liter of super gasoline from 210 to 270 fils.

One liter of normal gasoline from 180 to 220 fils.

Aircraft fuel for local companies from 650 to 800 fils per liter.

Diesel and kerosene from 650 to 750 fils per liter.

Tar from 50 to 60 JD per tonne.

Alcoholic drinks:

Local alcoholic drinks shall be increased by 40 per cent.

Foreign alcoholic drinks shall be been increased by 50 per cent.

Cleaning detergents shall be increased from 120 to 150 JD per tonne.

Foreign cigarettes:

Marlboro shall be increased from 680 to 850 fils per packet of 20 cigarettes.

Kent up from 610 to 750 fils.

Silk Cut up from 610 to 750 fils.

Rothmans up from 630 to 800 fils.

Gold Ring up from 640 to 800 fils.

Berkley up from 640 to 800 fils.

The minister of trade and industry also decided to adjust the prices of local cigarettes as follows:

Kamal, 290 fils; Reem Extra, 360 fils; Gold Star, 420 fils; Philadelphia (80 milligrams), 440 fils; Philadelphia (85 milligrams), 440 fils; Philadelphia (100 milligrams), 490 fils; Nasim, 440 fils; Top Twenty, 490 fils.

These prices are valid as of today, 16 April, 1989.

Carbonated drinks:

For returnable containers from 110 to 130 fils per liter.

For non-returnable containers from 115 to 135 fils per liter.

Natural drinks:

Mineral water returnable containers from 110 to 135 fils per liter.

Mineral water for non-returnable containers from 115 to 135 fils per liter.

These instructions were conveyed to the relevant authorities to implement the Council of Ministers' decision as of today, Sunday 16 April. The undersecretaries of the ministries of finance, energy, industry, trade, and supplies will meet today to set the implementation guidelines for the changes and generalize them.

The Council of Ministers also decided to broaden the income bases of television fees to include all those receiving electricity and also to add a charge of 10 per cent on telephone bills and annual subscription fees. They will also adjust the fees for mining phosphate at a rate of 1 JD per tonne and potash at a rate of 2 JD 500 fils per tonne.

Papers Assess Economic Measures, IMF Program

Readjustment 'Necessary'

JN1704210389 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 3

[From Muhammad Ibrahim Dawud's "I Saw and Heard" column: "Making the National Program Successful Is a Group Responsibility"]

[Text] The national economic and financial program set up by the government makes all sectors and groups responsible, through their active participation, for the successful implementation of the program. This is because the results, no matter what they are, will, in the final analysis, reflect on Jordanian society as a whole without excluding a certain group or sector.

Sharing the responsibility includes all fields of work and life. Therefore, any step, no matter how small—even if made by an individual—forms, with other similar steps, a positive movement toward solving the problems of the economy by decreasing expenses and controlling consumption. The participation of all public and private sectors will undoubtedly have a tangible effect in making readjustment a success, which is the start of the road to self-reliance and independence.

It is no longer possible to escape a comprehensive re-evaluation of the situation and an assessment of the basic needs on a clear and defined basis of priorities. This is necessary not only in the field of goods and materials, but also—perhaps more urgently—in the various fields of work. Any project that is not directly connected to the process of readjustment in terms of the new national economic objectives would be postponed or cancelled.

Undoubtedly, the government, being the decision-maker, is capable of intervening and guiding the activities of certain sectors toward the priorities which are considered vital, useful, and integral to the policy of, for example, investing all indigenous resources in production projects, doubling agricultural and industrial production to cover domestic needs, and increasing national exports.

Although the economic and financial program has given the private sector a leading role, what is urgently needed is an investment climate capable of exploiting national savings, attracting foreign capital, and using them to implement new and varied projects—projects that are not in competition with established projects and industries.

Of course, our task is not easy—perhaps it is even very difficult in terms of what we were used to in the way of luxury, the good life, and easy access to anything we needed or desired whether food, clothing, furniture, cars, or imported entertainment. Therefore, we have to prepare for coexisting with the whole burden imposed on us to make this program a success, such as economizing on public and private expenses, since many commodities will go up in price and will no longer be available in the markets. This is a result of efforts to limit imports to essential commodities which do not have a local alternative.

The program is a national policy for the next five years. Therefore, rendering it a success is considered the responsibility of the government and the various sectors and groups of citizens. Its success will be measured by how far we decrease the budget and balance of payments deficits and increase the gross national product and limit inflation.

Continuing Subsidies Cited

JN1704212289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Apr 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Success of the Government's Measures and the IMF's Praise"]

[Text] The economic measures that the government has taken since the middle of last year have come to serve the Jordanian economy's general trends and to enable Jordan to enter into a phase of readjustment and correction. The measures preceded the proposals of the IMF, which saw in them healthy signs and an accurate assessment that won the appreciation of the IMF experts.

In light of the government's sound assessment of the financial and monetary situation and in order to serve Jordan's economy, these measures have redrawn the details of the complete national economic and financial program for the next 5 years—a fact which was praised by the international experts in the IMF's mission.

The program stresses the following:

1. Maintaining stability in the dinar's exchange rate at its current value, which was approved as realistic and suitable.

2. Achieving real growth rates in the gross national product by 4 percent by the end of the program.

3. Depending on indigenous resources in the areas of the general budget and the balance of payments.

The program which was approved has prompted the government to take successive economic measures, keeping in mind that readjustment can only be achieved through reducing the deficit in the general budget by reducing government spending, increasing national revenues and improving ways to obtain them, and rescheduling foreign loans.

Emphasis was also laid on the need to promote the investment climate to increase savings, investment, and exports; to control consumption, imports, and inflation rates; and to promote the leading role of the private sector in the areas of investment, production, and exports.

The implementation of this program, which is in harmony with the governments' measures and which is moving toward completion, will provide additional financial revenue amounting to 275 million dinars through the IMF during the next 18 months. It will also provide other financial revenues from friendly countries, which deal with Jordan on the basis of its credibility, its sound economic policy, and its positive cooperation.

The program, which was blessed and approved and which will reduce the deficit in this year's state budget by increasing local revenues and reducing spending, will not affect subsidies on basic commodities—subsidies which will continue as a result of the government's awareness of the importance of the subsidies and through other urgent measures, which do not threaten them, and through parallel solutions.

As the program enters the implementation stage in the ministries and institutions in accordance with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's instructions, responsibility for its success in helping the Jordanian economy lies with everbody in both the public and private sectors. Success is achieved through the citizens' participation because this program is a comprehensive national program for which all people are responsible, and not a program of a certain government or sector.

AL-DUSTUR Hails Agreement

JN1804071689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Apr 89 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Major Boost of Confidence for the Economic and Development March"]

[Text] The Government's approval of the national economic-financial program reached with the IMF mission, is a major boost of confidence for Jordan's economic development and progress, which will continue to achieve balanced growth rates, following the series of government measures that have been adopted since mid-1988.

Over the past 3 weeks, the IMF mission was informed of the facts about the Jordanian economy, the general state budget, and the balance of payments. The mission

approved the soundness and correctness of the government measures taken to tackle the financial problem, following a number of difficulties resulting from the failure to honor fully the Arab financial obligations toward Jordan decided by the Baghdad 1978 summit.

With the approval of the details of the economic and financial program for the next 5 years agreed upon with the IMF, Jordan will be able to achieve a number of vital objectives, some of which are urgent, others are long-term.

Perhaps the first important urgent result was to maintain the dinar exchange rate at its current value, which was approved by the IMF mission as realistic and appropriate, as well as Jordan's acquisition of financial support of 275 million dinars from the IMF and the World Bank within the next 18 months.

The program will also enable Jordan to reschdule its foreign debts. It will reaffirm the focus on domestic resources and entrench the principle of self-reliance in dealing with the components of the state budget and the balance of payments.

Although this reform program will cut and restrict government expenditure and increase and improve collection of local revenues, it will not affect the government's subsidy of food supplies, which will continue as it is now.

The Council of Ministers' approval of the 5-year national economic-financial program agreed upon with the IMF will reopen the road for the national economy, especially in the private sector, to resume its march of balanced growth, and achieve real growth in the gross national product.

This is after this program has set new priorities and entrenched sound economic principles, headed by self-reliance, improving resources, rationalizing consumption, controlling imports, curbing inflation, and improving the investment, production, and export climates.

70 Wounded Muslims Transported to Sidon Coast

NC1804080489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] A convoy carrying wounded to be taken to the French hospital ship "La Rance," which is anchored off the Sidon coast, left at 0800 today from Dr Salim al-Huss' house. The convoy was led by French Minister Bernard Kouchner and French Ambassador Paul Blanc who had met this morning with Dr al-Huss.

Prime Minister Dr al-Huss had said earlier that 70 wounded from the western areas would be evacuated to Sidon port and from there to the French hospital ship "La Rance," which will take them to France.

Ambulances assembled near Dr al-Huss' house this morning before travelling to Sidon.

First Evacuation Boat Sails

NC1804110689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] At 0945, a boat carrying 35 people, the first batch of injured from West Beirut, sailed from Sidon port. The wounded were accompanied by French Minister Bernard Kouchner, French Ambassador Paul Blanc, Dr Kamil Muhanna from the Lebanese medical establishment, and officers from the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces.

Minister Kouchner met earlier in the morning with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, who expressed his thanks for the French initiative and his appreciation for Minister Kouchner and those who made this initiative possible.

The French minister expressed his readiness to transport those wounded people Prime Minister al-Huss or 'Awn request be evacuated. In reply to a question on Walid Junblatt's position regarding French aid, Kouchner said: In fact, Minister Junblatt announced his position in Damascus yesterday, and I am very pleased by this.

Regarding fuel oil, the French minister called for guarantees so the ship could carry out its mission. He added: The process of unloading the fuel will serve the interests of all Lebanese, particularly since the Al-Zuq power plant supplies all of Beirut and central Lebanon.

AFP: Juniyah-Larnaca Ferry Link Viewed

NC1804113389 Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 18 (AFP)—Children cried and women prayed aloud as shells rained down on the Christian-run port of Juniyah Monday night [17 April] while close to 1,000 passengers prepared to board a ferry for Cyprus witnesses said Tuesday.

The ferry, the "Larnaca Rose," took refuge offshore as the shelling temporarily severed the only link between Lebanon's Christian enclave and the outside world, security sources said.

Shipping agents in Cyprus said service out of Lebanon would nonetheless resume later Tuesday, with the "Larnaca Rose" leaving for the Cypriot port of Larnaca.

A second ferry originally scheduled to sail Monday night, the "Baroness," left Larnaca bound for Juniyah around midday Tuesday, Cypriot port officials said. [passage omitted]

On Monday night, some 40 shells fired from Syrian-controlled territory landed in the water near the "Larnaca Rose" as it approached the port to take aboard 900 to 1,000 waiting passengers, security sources said Tuesday.

The ferry withdrew offshore and the passengers took refuge inside the customs house, which was also shelled. [passage omitted]

The "Larnaca Rose" remained offshore Tuesday and the passengers—who spent the night in Juniyah bomb shelters—returned to the customs house after the shelling died down around dawn.

Juniyah, 19 kilometers (12 miles) north of Beirut, remains the only gateway to or from Lebanon's Christian enclave since the Syrian Army closed all land routes early last month.

Residents of West Beirut and other Moslem regions can travel by road to Damascus, but Beirut International Airport, in Syrian-controlled territory south of Beirut, has been closed by the shelling. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Holds News Conference in Damascus

NC1704145389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 17 Apr 89

[News conference held by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt with unidentified correspondents in Damascus on 17 April—recorded]

[Text] [Junblatt] Every day that passes in the Lebanese crisis witnesses further death, destruction, and devastation. All this because Michel 'Awn and the military clique continue to raise the slogan of so-called liberation.

Every day the homeland sinks deeper in blood, destruction, and devastation, while Michel 'Awn remains intransigent and wants liberation. We advise him to abandon this slogan, to leave Lebanon, to leave all the Lebanese people, and go. We and the sincere Christian democratic forces will then build a homeland or a progressive political regime, establish political reforms, and consolidate a strategic relationship with Syria.

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[Correspondent]
French stand and

ng the slogan of liberation will only aggravate
ing, destruction, devastation, bloodshed, and
Here, I appeal to Christian forces, above all the
to stand up and say: Enough of this whirlpool.
n astonished that I have not yet heard a frank
n our ally Sulayman Franjiyah on this suicidal
ely the liberation war. We hope Franjiyah will,
adopt a national stand and stand on our side in
ontation.

now if Ja'ja' is waiting for an opportunity to
lowever, if he wants to inherit Michel 'Awn,
an exemplary way to attain this goal because
y inherit a destroyed and burned Lebanon.

, I denounce flagrant Iraqi intervention in
affairs. Saddam Husayn ultimately draws pity
has no free will or choice. He is being
d by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who
mad operation in Lebanon. I, in fact, blame
sayn for his stand. I would not be surprised if
e got him involved in the Gulf war. I believe
Aziz also involved him in the Gulf war.

ntion to a serious statement yesterday by
Sharif, this renegade Marxist who blatantly
Lebanese affairs. Instead of giving us
does Bassam Abu Sharif not give advice to
rafat on, for example, the increasing Jewish
Palestine from Ethiopia and elsewhere? Or
of Abu Ammar [Arafat] toward Michel
the gravity of what is taking place these
direct negotiations between the PLO,
rafat, and Israel? These direct negotiations
ht serve, Sharon's plan for an alternative
homeland.

reject Bassam Abu Sharif's intervention.
heard rumors, which I hope are only
military advance might take place from
nps in the Sidon area toward Al-Shuf and
ub. I say very frankly: We will confront
al and military means any move toward
If in the past we adopted a neutral
uring the war of the camps, we do not do
because we now realize the dimensions of
gainst the Lebanese people and against
tional issue. I warn against any move. I
rumors are only rumors.

m here to say. I reiterate that continued
ation war slogan will only cause more
uction for the innocent. Yesterday, we
d, the Spanish ambassador in Lebanon.

What is your current opinion of the
l consultations with the government?

[Junblatt] Well, I think that the French stand has been modified following the statements by Mitterrand and French State Secretary for Humanitarian Action Kouchner, but this is not enough. France has to understand that Lebanon is no longer that Maronite Christian enclave, the French protectorate of the 19th Century. Lebanon has changed. The demographic, economic, and political parameters have changed. We welcome changes in the French position if France is ready to take all Lebanese into consideration and to understand that Lebanon must have a special relationship with Syria.

[Correspondent—in English] Mr Junblatt, what is your objection to the shipment of supplies to the Lebanese people in general?

[Junblatt—in English] We are under siege. Let us lift the siege first and then we will see if it is possible for French ships to come and supply fuel and medicine. But, we are under a siege proclaimed by General 'Awn. This is the basic issue.

[Correspondent—in English] This is your objection.

[Junblatt—in English] Yes.

[Correspondent—in English] Mr Junblatt, how would you describe the situation now, and where do you think it is going?

[Junblatt—in English] It is going nowhere, to stalemate, more destruction, more dead, more wounded. Because the guy in B'abda is stubborn. He wants to liberate. His slogan is "liberation." Well, it won't be easy, it is impossible. It will destroy Lebanon. I would like to give him advice. Leave Lebanon, go somewhere else, go to Cannes, to Nice, or to Florida, like Marcos or like others, stay there and leave Lebanon in peace.

[Correspondent—in English] Suppose he doesn't listen to this advice. What is the alternative, Mr Junblatt?

[Junblatt—in English] We must defend ourselves, our villages, Beirut; which are being shelled, destroyed. We must defend ourselves. It is a dirty war, I know that. We are not fond of this war, but we must defend ourselves.

[Correspondent—in English] [Words indistinct] might lead to a sort of defeat to the other party or a victory?

[Junblatt—in English] I don't think anybody is winning now. We're just destroying the country. I don't think anybody is winning. It is time to come to our senses. It is time to say that, well, we want reforms, we want a new political system, we want a stable Lebanon. I think this is the only issue.

[Correspondent—in English] Are there any political moves being made now by the superpowers to find a solution or to put an end to what is going on?

[Junblatt—in English] We are still backing the Arab committee. We will see what will come out of this Arab committee.

[Correspondent] What is the meaning of your stand vis-a-vis former President Franjiyah? Do you wish to change the head of government and appoint a Maronite in that post?

[Junblatt] Former President Franjiyah is a Christian politician bears much weight in this country. He can take clear stands that are in favor of the Lebanese Christians, and particularly the Maronites, and get us all out of this fix, out of this war. If it is true that 'Awn has the final say in the Christian community, or more specifically in the Maronite community, then Lebanese Christians have a big problem, a truly big problem.

[Correspondent—in English] Do you have any clear idea of the U.S. position or stand on this?

[Junblatt—in English] I think the United States is for the cease-fire, and I still believe, and I am sure, that the United States is for basic political reforms in Lebanon. Back to the negotiations that were held in summer between Mr Murphy and the Syrians, we are still there, and it is very good.

[Correspondent—in English] Mr Junblatt, there were reports 2 months ago saying that the months of April and May may witness peace battles among, you know, the Lebanese, and a sort of practical step toward reconciliation.

[Junblatt—in English] Destroying the country and killing each other is no way to achieve reconciliation. But there is a major obstacle named Gen 'Awn, and his slogan of liberation. Well, liberation means destroying the country. That's it.

[Correspondent—in English] Do you believe that 'Awn's resignation is imminent?

[Junblatt—in English] I didn't say that; I said: It is better for him to leave. I mean...[Junblatt changes thought] and we can also guarantee him safety if he wants. I will take him in my car to a plane. But let him leave us alone. Leave us in peace in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] What was the atmosphere of your talks with the Iranian ambassador this morning?

[Junblatt] Iran stands by the patriotic and Islamic forces. Iran stands by Syria, as it did in the past, in the face of this Western campaign, and I am tempted to say this crusade. This is a natural and objective stand, and of course these are the principles that we have in common with Iran.

[Correspondent] Concerning the recent Arab committee meeting in Kuwait, what was discussed there? Has the committee made any progress?

[Junblatt] I have no information concerning the meeting of the Arab committee and the delegation from the so-called Lebanese Front. However, I think that delegation has no real say, maybe with the exception of one member of that delegation, the man called George 'Udwan who is the representative of Israel in this issue. They are all powerless. Nobody dares to speak there [in East Beirut] while Michel 'Awn holds a gun and spews his shells right and left. I do not think there has been any progress.

Our opinion, as patriotic forces, is to have a cease-fire—we hope this is possible—and then embark on political reforms. A cease-fire without political reform would be pointless. And what I mean by political reform is a new political system.

[Correspondent] How do you comment on a proposal by the Arab committee to form a military committee to supervise the cease-fire in Lebanon, a military committee with Kuwaiti, Sudanese, and Jordanian participation?

[Junblatt] I have heard no such proposal, but I think that when Michel 'Awn reaches the conclusion that the slogan of liberation is futile and destructive, then the patriotic forces and the Lebanese Army will be in a position to stop fighting.

[Correspondent—in English] Mr Junblatt, as a representative, or, let's say, as a leader of the nationalist forces in Lebanon, let's suppose that the Arab committee comes up with a solution that does not meet your satisfaction. Are you ready to abide by these resolutions?

[Junblatt—in English] In politics, there is nothing impossible. You should always negotiate to achieve, let's say, the maximum possible of your demands. We are not putting forth or establishing impossible conditions. We want, all what we want are a cease-fire and drastic political reforms. We want a new Lebanon, not an archaic, feudal, confessional Lebanon which will lead only to more war and destruction.

[Text] [Correspondent—in English] Mr Junblatt, Gen 'Awn, in an interview with ABC, admitted that he is militarily incapable of liberation. The reason for this continuation of the exchange of shelling, he said, is to advance political and diplomatic steps, and he has succeeded to a certain extent. Could you tell us, what these steps are?

[Junblatt—in English] No, I think he is just a prisoner of his own idea and slogan. He cannot pull back, because once he pulls back he will be defeated by opponents, mainly by Samir Ja'ja'. There is also a kind of malaise inside the Lebanese Army. There are some officers—we have rumors—who do not support his policy. He cannot pull back. We can offer him a way, an honorable way to get out. We are ready.

[Correspondent] Mr Walid, the Lebanese war has entered its 15th year. There used to be battle lines. Are the battle lines now the houses of peaceful citizens?

[Junblatt] We all want peace, security, and stability. Not one of us loves war for the sake of war. We have enough destruction, devastation, and death. We must give our posterity, our children, the minimum level of security and stability. We cannot remain in this whirlpool. We cannot remain in the whirlpool of fighting, but this time we are in a position of self-defense.

'Awn came out with the slogan of liberation, this slogan which is impossible to achieve, a mad slogan. However, foreign forces helping him are encouraging him. He has become a tool and prisoner of the Iraqi-'Arafatist game. Even within the ranks of his army, the army is not displaying solidarity with him. I pity this army. The poor Christian soldier or the poor Muslim soldier who hails from 'Akkar or from the south is dying in Suq al-Gharb. What for? For liberation? What will he liberate, and what for?

This is the subject. Let 'Awn leave. As I have said, I am prepared to give him safe passage on a plane. And let him leave us alone.

[Correspondent] If he does not leave, will the solution be a storming into East Beirut from West Beirut, or from East Beirut into West Beirut?

[Junblatt] We hope the fighting will not continue. We hope to build a firm cease-fire. A firm cease-fire means a final and clear solution of the Lebanese crisis. The foreign fingers—Abu 'Ammar who is playing with fire and with Lebanon's security and Saddam Husayn—let them leave us alone.

It is clear Abu 'Ammar is heading toward direct negotiations with Shamir. He wants to do what Al-Sadat did in the past. He wants to negotiate on the future of not the West Bank, but in my opinion, on the future of East Jordan. This is a very grave matter because it is an abortion of all the Palestinian and pan-Arab issues. This is a dangerous matter.

As for Saddam Husayn, before he calls us to account in Lebanon or calls Syria, God forbid, to account because of the Gulf war, let him call his group to account. Who involved him in the Gulf war and what did he do in the Gulf war? Let him call his group to account to us.

'Awn Interviewed by Telephone, Addresses Al-Asad
NC1804085889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with "Prime Minister" General Michel 'Awn in his command post by Voice of Lebanon correspondent Sa'id al-Ghurayib; "yesterday"—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Ghurayib] Dear listeners: His Excellency General Michel 'Awn, prime minister and military commander, is now with us on the line for a live address. Good evening Mr Prime Minister.

['Awn] May God be with you. Good evening to you and to all the listeners who are still awake and with us tonight. Like all Lebanese people, here in my command post I am now coming under fire. Perhaps the fire is more concentrated against us than the rest of you. This is an example that we repeatedly learn from our history, namely: That while they are in command, our leaders remain at risk before their people.

I tell the Lebanese not to panic or worry. The brick that breaks will be relaid, the building that collapses will be reconstructed, the pipe that breaks will be replaced, the electrical wire that breaks will be fixed. Let them pay attention to their safety and take secure shelter.

Our military lines are strong and firm and will not break. Instead, all aggressors and occupiers on our territory will collapse. This is the message I have for them tonight. Our morale will remain high and our will will not be broken, ours will be the lion's share.

[Al-Ghurayib] Thanks to you Mr Prime Minister. Mr Prime Minister, how far have we gone so far?

['Awn] We have gone most of the way. The first shell causes the greatest loss, the second a quarter less, the third 10 percent less, and the fourth no longer counts. We have reached a situation where the shells cause no loss. The things that we had feared would break are already broken. What remains to be broken is the head of Al-Asad.

[Al-Ghurayib] May God give you long life, Mr Prime Minister. Does this mean that the nail has been loosened?

['Awn] Loosened and removed. What you see tonight is insanity, insanity. Thousands of shells are falling on our heads. The message to the world tonight is: There is not a single drop of Syrian blood on the conscience of any Lebanese, but the Lebanese blood is on the conscience of Hafiz al-Asad. The blood of all Lebanese, the innocent, elderly people as well as children, is on the conscience of Hafiz al-Asad. How long will this criminal continue his bombardment? Nevertheless, Lebanon will be his graveyard and that of his regime.

[Al-Ghurayib] Prime Minister, we receive phone calls from West Beirut. The callers decline to give their names, Your Excellency knows why, and they all are with you. All the calls voice support for you and your steps. What would you like to say to West Beirut and the occupied areas?

['Awn] Undoubtedly from the common sufferings and pain will be born a single and unified homeland. This time it will be made possible through determination, reason, justice, and equality for all. Have a good night.

[Al-Ghurayib] May God give you long life, Mr Prime Minister.

['Awn] God be with you.

'Awn Meets With French Envoy on Current Mission

NC1704182289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn met today with French envoy Bernard Kouchner and French Ambassador Paul Blanc. The French envoy said that the meeting, like the other meetings, was useful.

He added: Once again we delineated the objective of our humanitarian mission. I will end my mission once the rest of the wounded have been treated on board "La Rance." This is a humanitarian mission that will end once it has been accomplished. I will end this mission when peace is restored to Lebanon.

The French envoy went on to say: I have not been authorized to talk about the cease-fire. To my understanding, contacts over this matter have taken place, and Gen 'Awn has confirmed this to me.

'Awn Receives U.S. Envoy, Dany Sham'un

NC1704153989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn received U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy in B'abda today. They reviewed political and security developments in Lebanon in addition to the U.S. stand on these developments.

Prime Minister Gen 'Awn also met with National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un and deputy Pierre Dakkash. After the meeting, Dany Sham'un said: The meeting was an opportunity for us to brief Gen 'Awn on the meetings in Kuwait. In his turn, Gen 'Awn briefed us on the messages he has sent to the Arab leaders, to Gorbachev, and to the UN secretary general on the attacks that have taken place and the damage that has been caused.

Responding to a question, Dany Sham'un said: The Arab committee has conducted unannounced contacts. We hope that Arab countries will play an effective role.

On the cease-fire, Dany Sham'un said: No cease-fire was observed there [on the Western side], but there was a comparative suspension of the attacks. A serious cease-fire can be achieved when a military committee of the Lebanese and Syrian Armies meets to coordinate such an action.

Economy Ministry Source Confirms Wheat Supply

NC1704174289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpts] A responsible source at the Ministry of Economy has disclosed that the country's wheat stocks can meet needs for over 3 months. Flour, he said, is regularly delivered to bakeries and there is no fear of shortages of this substance. [passage omitted]

Staff Brigadier General 'Isam Abu Jamrah, minister of water and electricity, today instructed the Lebanese Electricity Company to ensure the supply of electricity to the water supply stations for 2 hours daily in order to be able to supply all citizens with water.

Casualty Figures for 17 Apr Updated

NC1804081489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Another day and night of frenzied shelling have hit areas and neighborhoods in Beirut, the suburbs, and on the mountain, as though the general has not had his fill of the woes created by his ambitions and his empty slogans. Following the guarded calm which prevailed in Beirut, the suburban and mountain areas yesterday afternoon, the Al-Yarzah army carried out its plan to horrify the people in their shelters.

At 1430 yesterday, Gen 'Awn's army escalated the situation by shelling the Muslim areas, sparing no street or neighborhood from his malice. The shelling escalated in a frenzied manner at approximately 2130 and continued until now. [passage omitted]

A number of fires broke out in several neighborhoods in Beirut's southern suburb as a result of this blind shelling, and many people were wounded.

The mountain was not spared from the shelling and, for the first time, the Al-Yarzah army shells reached as far as Dayr al-Qamar, and Kafr Nabrakh in al-Shuf as well as 'Alayh, Bhamdun, Sawfar, Ba'lshmayh, 'Aramun and Al-Biqa'. [passage omitted]

According to a preliminary count, 11 citizens were martyred and 25 others wounded as a result of the shelling. However, it was not possible to count all the casualties as a result of the intensified shelling.

Army Positions Shelled by Syrians

NC1804100189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0954 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Here is a report from the news desk:

The Syrians have started attacking Lebanese Army positions. They are shelling the Army positions in Suq al-Gharb with 120-mm and 106-mm artillery. Explosions are being heard in the capital and its suburbs.

Evacuation Day Speech Rally Held in Damascus

JN1704185389

[Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic in parallel with Damascus Television Service in Arabic at 1258 GMT on 17 April carries live a 1 hour 40-minute speech rally at the Damascus Auditorium by the Damascus branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to mark the 43d anniversary of Evacuation Day.

The rally gets underway by observing a minute of silence to honor the martyrs who have fallen in the cause of the Arab liberation movement.

At 1303 GMT, Muhyiddin al-Baydani, head of the League of Syrian Revolutionaries, begins a 15-minute speech in which he extols the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and President Hafiz al-Asad and the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. He says that only after the masses assert themselves against colonialists can they achieve independence.

At 1320 GMT, Ahmad Abu Musa, the head of the Ba'th Party vanguards, begins a 16-minute speech in which he asserts that this anniversary is an opportunity to reiterate popular allegiance to the Ba'th Party and President al-Asad, and that Arab victory against their enemies is inevitable. He declares that the time is gone forever when colonialists can have their way. He declares that Syria supports Lebanon's pan-Arab identity.

At 1338, Ahmad al-As'ad, a member of the National Progressive Front begins a 13-minute speech in which he says freedom has been the most important goal pursued in mankind's history and declares that French imperialism crashed against the rock of the Syrian people's determination. He asserts that Lebanon's crisis dates back to French colonial rule and declares that Syria is resolved to remain faithful to the notion of martyrdom.

At 1353 GMT, Vice President Zuhayr Mashariqah begins a 35-minute speech in which he conveys a pledge to the audience from President al-Asad to pursue the militant march until unity, freedom, and socialism prevail throughout the Arab homeland. Mashariqah says Syria's pan-Arabism has made it shoulder responsibilities on behalf of Arab causes including the Palestinian cause.

Mashariqah asserts that the Ba'th Party was founded in 1947 to lead the march for building a socialist Arab society and battling against individual dictatorship. He contends that the Corrective Movement in 1970 marked the beginning of new era not only in Syria but in the entire region.

He notes that, domestically speaking, Syria has never before been so united as evidenced by the existence of the National Progressive Front. Mashariqah goes on to enumerate achievments on the domestic front since the Ba'thists came to power.

On Lebanon, Mashariqah says: "Our interest in Lebanese developments is inspired by the brotherly ties that bind us with the Lebanese. Proceeding from these principles, we have exerted ourselves and made sacrifices to help Lebanese of all factions and we are seeking a solution that puts a definitive end to the recurrent infighting."

Mashariqah goes on to assert that Syria will continue to stand alongside Lebanon under all circumstances. Mashariqah then says that "Syria shall remain committed to Lebanon's unity and integrity." He adds: "We wish all Lebanese factions had their country's interests at heart and placed national interests before factional ones. Those who are against national accord in Lebanon only advance the interests of their country's enemy and they will eventually reap failure."

Concluding his speech, Mashariqah salutes the intifadah, Lebanese resistance, and progressive forces led by the Soviet Union.

The live relay concludes at 1438 GMT.

Soviet Gas Industry Minister Arrives 17 Apr

JN1704183389 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 17 Apr (SANA)—Viktor Chernomydrin, Soviet minister of the gas industry, arrived in Damascus today, heading a delegation on a several-day visit to Syria.

He said upon arrival that the aim of the visit is to hold talks with officials of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources to further consolidate bilateral cooperation in various area, particularly in the gas industry and the exploitation of gas deposits.

Afghanistan

Armed Forces Launch Nangarhar Counteroffensive

Mujahidin Repel Attack

BK1704134989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 17 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels repulsed Monday an Afghan Army counteroffensive south of Jalalabad as fighting for control of the garrison city entered its seventh week, resistance sources said. The sources said the rebels had seized seven important posts west of Jalalabad. At least 25 government soldiers were killed and 38 troops captured in fighting overnight, they added.

During the the past two days the mujahidin captured more than a dozen military posts in the region of Chaparhar, they said. The government has set up a cluster of posts around the 81st Brigade defending the city from the south, but at least 13 such posts fell to mujahidin in quick succession, the sources said. The resistance said the rebel victories exposed the city's defenders, leaving the brigade vulnerable to the rebels.

Troops of the 81st Brigade launched a surprise attack on the mujahidin on Monday, but rebels entrenched in captured bunkers repulsed the attack, said the sources. The government troops then lost one post in their retreat, the sources said.

Fighting is heavy in the west, where the rebels frustrated the latest government attempt to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, the sources said. A government spokesman said in Kabul however that the 128-kilometer (80-mile) highway was open and that a convoy carrying military and food supplies from Kabul had reached Jalalabad on Sunday.

5 Posts in Chaprahar Seized

BK1804061689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan the mujahidin have attacked Chaprahar District and occupied five posts. During the attack more than 50 Kabul regime troops surrendered along with their weapons.

In another operation the mujahidin occupied eight posts of the Kabul regime north of Khowst. The mujahidin shot down a Kabul regime plane in (Chinthana) and captured the pilot.

Another report says fierce fighting between the mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in Teri Za'i and Ya'qubi areas.

Army Ammunition Dump Destroyed

BK1804101389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (AFP)—Afghan rebels Tuesday destroyed an Afghan Army ammunition depot near eastern Jalalabad, which has been under mujahidin siege for nearly two months, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said.

The dump was set ablaze at about 10:00 a.m. after mujahidin fired a barrage of long-range rockets on the 9th Army Headquarters located in Darunta District, 10 kilometres (six miles) northwest of Jalalabad, AIP said.

The fire raged two hours with flames as high as 50 metres (yards), and ammunition explosions could be heard from the bordering Pakistani town of Towr Kham, it said. The dump was completely destroyed, it added. No information on casualties was immediately available, the agency said.

The guerrillas have also intensified attacks on the 81st Brigade south of Jalalabad, which has been under siege for more than a month, AIP said without giving details.

It said a woman was killed and two were injured Monday when a Soviet-made surface-to-surface Scud missile fired by Afghan troops hit a residential area of Chaparhar District, a few kilometres (miles) south of Jalalabad.

Rebels Violate Government-Declared Cease-Fire

LD1704173989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The cease-fire declared by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to mark the holy month of Ramadan, and so that our religious compatriots could perform their religious tenets and traditions in a peaceful and tranquil climate, was violated yesterday by extremists groups attached to Pakistan in the provinces of Nangarhar, Herat, Qandahar, and in the Khowst District. The cease-fire was observed in general in other regions and provinces of the country.

An authoritive source reported to the BAKHTAR military section that joint forces of Pakistani and extremist groups, backed by Pakistani soldiers, yesterday continued their aggression in the Chaprahar and (Sera Rod) areas of Nangarhar Province. The 11th and 18th divisions of the Pakistan Army fired heavy weapons against Jalalabad airport, security posts around the city, and onto residential areas, as a result of which one civilian was injured.

The brave units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province retaliated with crushing blows to enemy forces as a result of which 32 enemy troops were killed and 18 injured. Among those killed are five ringleaders of the extremists, (Shaker), (Khano

Khan), (Ahmad), (Samander) and (Saheb Jan). Also an enemy BM-1 system and a BM-12 system, and an arms and ammunition depot were destroyed.

The Armed Forces source adds that according to intelligence reports, Pakistan's officers and Saudi Arabian advisers have given fresh tasks to the leaders of the armed groups in order to conceal the defeat and the internal disagreement among the armed opposition groups, and in order to reorganize them for new attacks.

According to another report by the Armed Forces source, the enemy joint forces embarked on a new attack 20 km northeast of Khowst. The units and companies of the region foiled the enemy attack with bravery and heroism, and pushed them back.

As a result of government artillery and Air Force attacks on 14 and 15 April, 81 enemy troops were killed and 72 were injured, including 14 Wahabi advisers and 13 Pakistani militiamen. Also, an enemy vehicle loaded with ammunition, rocket projectiles, 1 ZK-1 gun, 7 DSHKS, and 2 (Blindazh) were destroyed.

According to a recent report from Khowst District, the Armed Forces inflicted crushing blows on the extremists supported by Pakistan today, killing 58, injuring 15, including their ringleader. Also, an enemy recoilless gun and an arms and ammunition depot were destroyed. The report adds that the armed extremists groups backed by Pakistan yesterday fired heavy weapons on the cities of Qandahar and Herat, but no loss of life was reported.

The Armed Forces stationed in these provinces inflicted crushing blows in retaliation, as a result of which 25 enemy troops were killed and 12 injured. Two Kalashnikovs, with 5,000 shells and a box of DShK shells were seized by the Armed Foces. A recoilless gun and two DShK's of the enemy were destroyed. Six persons from the Jamiyat group in Herat Province were killed, including one of their ringleaders, (Zahir Sherbat); four were injured. Their DShK and a few light weapons were destroyed.

'Abdul Haq Says Jalalabad Attack 'Mistake'

BK1704120589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 17 Apr 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 17 (AFP)—The decision to mount a conventional attack on the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad was a mistake because the mujahidin are equipped only for guerrilla warfare, a top rebel field commander has said.

"It was a mistake," said 'Abdul Haq, a key commander with the Hezb-e Eslami fundamentalist group headed by Yunis Khalis, in an interview at this northwestern Pakistani city which serves as a base for the guerrilla groups.

Mr. Khalis's troops comprise around 60 percent of the estimated 10,000 to 12,000 mujahidin fighting in the province of Nangarhar, of which Jalalabad is the capital.

"I am opposed to the assault on Jalalabad," which is heavily defended by government troops, said Mr. Haq, 30, adding that he had advised against it several months ago. "We must have the right equipment for a conventional war," like long-range anti-aircraft missiles and anti-tank weapons, he said. "Now we have guerrilla equipment with a conventional war."

The mujahidin have attempted to capture Jalalabad several times since the battle began six weeks ago, but have been repulsed by artillery barrages, mine fields and air attacks.

Mr. Haq said the mujahidin around Jalalabad did not have enough U.S.-made anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, which are used to down government jets carrying out raids on rebel positions between Jalalabad and the Pakistani border 75 kilometers (46 miles) to the east. Their Stingers however cannot reach government fighter-bombers, which fly at altitudes of more than 6,000 meters (20,000 feet), specialists say. "We have committed a lot of mistakes," said Mr. Haq.

Mujahidin sources here also say that their effort has suffered from "a dramatic lack of coordination" and even rivalries that have sometimes resulted in clashes among the different groups.

Mr. Haq, who is from Kabul, also said he opposes an attack on the Afghan capital but favors isolating the city of two million by cutting off the roads. "We don't want to attack Kabul now," he said. "We want to avoid too much bloodshed in the country. We must stop unnecessary bloodshed." Mr. Haq said he did not want a repetition of last summer's taking of Konduz, a northern city where many civilians died in the fighting and numerous civil servants and their families were executed by the mujahidin.

The mujahidin have a significant network inside Kabul, Mr. Haq said. "We have more than 100 groups" totalling some 5,000 to 6,000 armed men waiting for his signal to rise up against the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah, he said.

Mr. Haq said that as many as 500 people are leaving Kabul daily, and he emphasized that the mujahidin would attack the city when its civilian population was smaller.

Mr. Haq, who has long been at odds with the military strategy adopted by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Pakistani secret service, openly criticized the CIA.

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can, I am not anti-West, but I have no
CIA. The Americans help us because we
enemies."

ntenced to 16-Year Prison Term
Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto
Apr 89

7 Apr (BAKHTAR)—A Saudi Arabia
vice spy was tried today by the Republic
Special Court for National Security.
was attended by domestic and foreign
a number of our compatriots.

ilitary section reports that after complet-
d investigation, the file was assessed by
rt for National Security during an open

trial, the special Afghan prosecutor on
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of Afghanistan's Special Court for
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1 month to appeal to a higher court.

ds Appeals on Geneva Accords

ssage to U.S. Congress
Kabul BAKHTAR in English
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April 13, BAKHTAR—The Geneva
ost creditable international document
were signed a year ago. Conclusion of such accords is a positive and practical step towards peaceful settlement of the regional conflicts as well as ensurance of peace and international security.

Welcoming of the signing of the Geneva accords by all realistic forces and countries of the world as well as the world public opinion including the people of USA was promising that the old aspiration of all strata and classes of the people of Afghanistan will be soon put into practice. But, unfortunately the later developments have darkened the atmosphere of the aspiration of the Afghans.

Although the Republic of Afghanistan has been honestly fulfilling its commitments in regard to the Geneva accords and makes all-sided efforts for maintenance of peace in the country. [sentence as received] Likewise, the last soldier of the Soviet Union left Afghanistan on schedule. Unfortunately some military circles of Pakistan not only not let Pakistan to take even one step for fulfillment of its commitments [as received] but the said circles have not refrained from intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

On the other hand they gave such dimensions to their interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan which have seriously endangered the relations between Afghanistan and on the cause of peace and security in the region as well as the world.

One year has passed from signing of the Geneva accords. We, the representatives of the suffering people of Afghanistan demand from you, the representatives of the people of the USA, to use all possibilities, which you have at hand, for the implementation of the said accords. This matter can fulfill the wishes of those who are interested in peace and stability in this important strategic region of the world and those who want to establish friendly relations between our countries.

Availing the opportunity, the message expresses hopes for further expansion of the friendly relations between the people and parliaments of the two countries.

Message to USSR Supreme Soviet
LD1504055789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 15 Apr 89

["Message from Lower Chamber of Afghan Parliament to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, April 14, BAKHTAR—Deputies of the lower chamber of the Afghan parliament "Wolasi Jerga" sent a message to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the Geneva accords on the political settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan.

The signing of these accords has been an important positive step toward peaceful settlement of regional conflicts and consolidation of international security,

says the message to the Soviet parliamentarians. The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have been implementing the commitments assumed firmly and unswervingly. The completion of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan can be viewed as a manifestation of goodwill.

Deplorably, Pakistan and the United States have been regularly violating and continue to violate the provisions of the Geneva accords, and the hopes for an end to the bloody war in Afghanistan are waning. Representatives of the Afghan people urge the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet to use its high international prestige and political authority to ensure that the accords are unswervingly observed by all the parties to them.

The message says that friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR are deeply rooted in history.

"We are profoundly grateful to the USSR for all-round assistance that it has been rendering and continues to render to the Afghan people and we also express the hope that friendship between the peoples and parliaments of our two countries will be developing and strengthening", the message says.

Appeals Sent to Iran, India

LD1604072889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0500 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 15, BAKHTAR—As you know that a year ago the Geneva accords on Afghanistan were signed. A conclusion of such accords as one of the most creditable international documents is regarded as an important positive and practical step towards peaceful settlement of the regional conflicts as well as ensurance of international peace and security.

This was said in a message of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan addressed to the parliament the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the first signing anniversary of the Geneva accords. .

Pointing to the commitments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union fulfilled in connection to the Geneva accords the message says tht the military circles of Pakistan supported by the United States have not only not observed the provisions of the accords but have intensified their interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The message asks members of the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran to use their international credibility for the speedy implementation of the Geneva accords by all concerned sides.

The message indicates that full observance of the said accords will provide peaceful conditions in this important strategic areas of the world. Likewise, on the same occasion a similar message has been sent to India addressed to the parliament of that country.

The message has asked the parliament of the Republic of India to use its international authority for the speedy implementation of the accords in this significant stragegic region of the world.

Appeal to Perez de Cuellar

LD1604072489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 15, BAKHTAR—As you know that a year ago the Geneva accords on Afghanistan were signed as a result of the persistent efforts of you and your personal envoy, Diego Cordovez. Conclusion of such accords as one of the most creditable international document is a significant and practical step towards peaceful settlement of the world's conflicts.

This was said in a message of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan addressed to the UN secretary general on the occasion of the first signing anniversary of the Geneva accords.

The warm and sincere welcoming of the signing of the said accords by all UN members countries and world public opinions was a good news for fulfilling the old wish of the people of Afghanistan as well as putting an end to bloodshed and ensurance of a durable peace. Unfortunately the subsequent events has increasingly offended the atmosphere of such aspiration.

Although the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have fulfilled their commitments and the last soldier of the Soviet Union left Afghanistan on schedule.

Unfortunately Pakistan as one of the contracting parties of the Geneva accords backed and encouraged by the USA as a guarantor of the accords has not only not taken any practical step in connection to the accords but the direct and flagrant interferences of that country in the internal affairs of Afghanistan have reached to dangerous dimensions which can cause the unpredictable consequences to the cause of the peace and security in the region as well as the world. The incidents around Jalalabad as the most severe military counterattacks in all period of war are counted as a direct result of Pakistan's policy.

Hence, the situation created inside and around the Republic of Afghanistan have instigated the increasing anxiety of all those interested in realization of the Geneva accords.

Now, as one year has passed from signing of the Geneva accords, we, the representatives of the suffering nation of Afghanistan demand from you to use your international credibility for the speedy execution of these accords by all concerned sides.

This matter will play an effective role in the maintenance of peace and security in this important strategic area of the world which is one of the supreme goals of the UNO.

National Front Sends Message to PRC Leaders

LD1504055889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 14, BAKHTAR—The Executive Board of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan sent a message to leaders of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the Geneva accords.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is steadily pursuing the course of national reconciliation which is fully supported by the Afghan people, the message says. The achievements along this course over the two years since the moment it was proclaimed comprise political, economic and social areas of the life of Afghan society.

One of these achievements was the creation of a multi-party system. Participating in the political life in the Republic of Afghanistan, aside from the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, are now six other parties and political organisations reflecting the interests of various circles of society.

There are many examples of the success of this policy also in other areas. Vast efforts were made in this direction also in the international arena to achieve a peaceful settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan. This resulted in the signing of the Geneva accords.

The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan have been painstakingly fulfilling the Geneva accords. There is not a single Soviet soldier in Afghanistan now, and the republic's Armed Forces protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the country themselves.

But certain subversive forces, above all in Pakistan and the USA, stir up fratricidal war in Afghanistan. And this takes place at a time when there appeared real conditions for achieving accord among Afghans.

The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan is prepared for the creation of a broad-based government which could be able to protect and represent the interests of all political forces of the Afghan society.

The Executive Board of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan is confident that the People's Republic of China can make a weighty contribution to the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, and that its leaders will give a positive response to this request of the Afghan people.

UN Notified of Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

Notices 403, 404

LD1604064889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 15, BAKHTAR—Notices number 403rd and 404th of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant and repeated violations of Pakistan of Article 2, document number 1 of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Friday.

Strict and authentic information on 3360 instances of Pakistani violations, since the signing of the Geneva accords on April 14, 1988, which were reflected in 404 notices and are a few from among the many and mainly are consisted of:

- Training of extremists in 125 military training camps in the Pakistani territory.
- Sending of extremists to commit murder, destructive activities and sabotage inside the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan.
- Dispatching of Pakistani, Arab, American and other country's military advisors in the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] to organise anti-state and anti-people activities here.
- Launching of extensive fabricated and baseless publicity campaign against the RA.
- Creation of all kinds of obstacles, threats, bribes and deceit, against the return of the Afghan refugees back home.
- Sending of lethal armaments, mines and explosives in the RA.
- Provision of facilities for the extremists ringleaders in the form of creating offices, radio stations, distribution of publicity material, holding of press conferences and interviews of the said ringleaders in the Pakistani territory.
- Encouraging and even imposing of the so-called shura (council) and the so-called provisional extremists government made in Rawalpindi under direct supervision of the Pakistani military intelligence and representing it as government of Afghanistan.

- Charting out of war plans by the Pakistani military men especially the Pakistani military intelligence headed by General Hamid Gul to capture one of the frontier cities of the RA.

- Direct involvements of Pakistani militia and regular military contingents of that country in the recent operations in Jalalabad, Khowst and Qandahar which unfortunately after the withdrawal of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union are intensified, are provided to the mission.

It is mentioned in the notice that decision of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, for creating permament UNGOMAP observation posts in the Afghan frontier line with Pakistan is in itself clear manifestation of violations by Pakistan of that accords, the notices say.

Notices 405-408

LD1704062189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 16, BAKHTAR—Four more notices, 405th-408th, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the Office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Saturday.

In the notices strict information on 29 instances of violations by the Pakistani military authorities from the contents of Article 2, document number 1 of the accords were provided to the mission.

The mission is demanded that as per Paragraph 7, Document Number 4 of the said accords assess the said violations and inform results of its findings to the representative of the UN secretary general and the concerned sides.

Notices 409-411

LD1704034289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
1530 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 16, BAKHTAR—The UNGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] has been notified of Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords through notes 409-411 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. Comprehensive information has been furnished concerning eight cases of violations of the Geneva accords' provisions, especially concerning Article 2, Document 1 of the accords.

The mission is requested to investigate the violations in line with Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, on which there is irrefutable evidence. The mission is requested to submit its findings to the representative of the UN secretary general and related authorities of the concerned parties.

Najibullah Decree Promotes Armed Forces Officers

LD1604160389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1500 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] According to a decree by esteemed President Najibullah, the following Afghan Armed Forces officers, who have demonstrated merit in the fulfilment of their duties, are promoted from the rank of colonel to that of brigadier general: Muhammad Esma'il, son of (Gulam Gaylani), and Muhammad Hashim, son of (Baz Gol).

Najibullah Approves Law on Opposition Families

LD1404135189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] On the basis of Paragraph 2, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Afghan President Najibullah approved the law on the rights and privileges of the families of those opposition commanders who have come over to the side of national reconciliation which was endorsed by Council of Ministers Resolution No 20, dated 4 April 1989.

This law provides suitable conditions for the resumption of normal life to those opposition commanders and ringleaders of groups who come over to the side of the policy of national reconciliation for ending the fratricidal war and restoring nationwide peace in the country.

According to another report, esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, approved supplement No 3 of the law on badges, medals, and honorary awards of the Republic of Afghanistan which was endorsed by Resolution No 9 of the Council of Ministers, dated 28 March 1989.

Kahmard District Transferred to Baghlan Province

LD1604175289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The Presidential Office reports that in accordance with paragraph 2, Article 75 of the Constitution, esteemed President Najibullah issued a decree ratifying Council of Ministers Resolution No 12, dated 28 March, on the separation of Kahmard District from Bamian Province and its attachment to Baghlan Province. The district's existing boundaries are preserved.

India

Over 100 Arrested, Bombs Seized in Hazaribagh

BK1804091189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Curfew remains in force in Hazaribagh town of Bihar which witnessed some violence on Sunday. No relaxation was given in the morning. The proposed relaxation for 2 hours in the evening will be decided after assessing the situation.

More than 100 people have so far been taken into custody in connection with the violence. A large quantity of bomb-making materials and some bombs have been recovered.

Spokesman Welcomes Sri Lankan Peace Talks

BK1704144989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India welcomes any talks that lead to peace in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. He was responding to queries from newsmen.

The spokesman pointed out that India has always supported the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] entering the political mainstream within the framework of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement and also keeping in view the unity and integrity of the island nation.

Concern Expressed Over Pakistani Nuclear Program

BK1704161989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] India has expressed concern at Pakistan's weapons-oriented nuclear program and its ongoing military buildup in its quest to achieve qualitative advantage in the region. The annual report of the Defense Ministry for 1988-89 says that the Indian Government views with concern reports about Pakistan's growing security linkages with the U.S. Central Command and also with its erstwhile CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] partners.

It points out that apart from acquiring high-technology weapon system from the United States and other Western sources, Pakistan has brought about significant upgradation of its existing weaponry in collaboration with China and other countries.

The report observes that India has been compelled to focus attention on antisubmarine defense following Pakistan's recent acquisition of 100-km-range naval missile which poses a potential threat to India's on-shore and off-shore installations.

The report however notes that the emergence of a democratically-elected government in Pakistan is another event of importance, justifying cautious optimism for improved and more enduring relationship between India and Pakistan.

The annual report warns that China's policy of arms supply to countries of southern Asia has the potential to adversely affect the security environment in the region. However, it says, these developments may be viewed in the overall perspective of other positive trends toward improving India-China relation and the resolve of both the countries to maintain peace and and good-neighborly conduct.

Navy Called in as Port Workers Go on Strike

BK1704080889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Port and dock workers in the country went on an indefinite strike from today, even as negotiations are continuing between the union leaders and the government. The strike, which is mainly for higher wages, commenced around midnight. The center made a fresh offer this morning for a hike in wages to all port workers at par with other public sector undertakings.

Official sources in New Delhi told our correspondent that the Navy has been pressed into service to carry movement of items at all ports. The Territorial Army has also been deployed to help in essential operations.

The sources said the situation is far from grave, as the government had moved huge stocks of essential goods as preemptive action.

Talks With Dock Workers Fail

BK1704130089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Port and dock workers' representatives have failed to reach an agreement with the government on their demands for wage hike. While the center is prepared to increase the wages by 15 percent, the workers demand 28 percent. They have gone on a countrywide indefinite strike from midnight last night in all ports to press their demands.

The secretary in the Ministry of Surface Transport, Mr P.M. Abraham, told newsmen in New Delhi in the afternoon that doors are still open to workers for negotiations. He said the hike offered compares favorably with worker's wages obtaining in many public undertakings.

A spokesman of the five federations representing the workers at the tripartite meeting, however, said the government's wage offer has no genuine parity with wages in other public sector units. He said the talks have failed and they will go ahead with the strike.

Official sources attribute the present stalemate to an adamant attitude of union leaders and to interunion rivalries. The reconciliation process initiated by the chief labor commissioner has been adjourned for the time being. No date has been fixed for further talks.

Work at almost all ports has been affected by the strike. In Calcutta, however, 90 percent of the port workers reported for duty. Army, Navy and Territorial Army personnel have been moved in major ports to help in handling essential cargo.

Agni Missile Test 'Should Not Cause Any Concern'

BK1704160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman asserted in New Delhi today that the proposed test-firing of an Agni missile is a demonstration of the technology which India wishes to develop.

Responding to queries from newsmen, he said it is an integrated guided missile program, which is indigenous, for meeting some of the operational requirements of defense services. It does not amount to introduction of a weapon system. He said it should not cause any concern to anyone.

INSAT-II Test Spacecraft To Launch Mid-1990

BK1604091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The first INSAT-II test spacecraft will be ready for launch by the middle of next year. The second test spacecraft in the series will be ready in June 1991.

This will be followed by three operational satellites which will replace the INSAT-I series, the last of which—INSAT-ID—is scheduled for launch next month.

Minister Announces TV Coverage Expansion Plan

BK1504075989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Doordarshan services will be expanded to cover 83 percent of the population. This was stated by the union minister for information and broadcasting, Mr H.K.L.Bhagat, at Sangli in Maharashtra. He was recommissioning the Doordarshan relay center there.

Mr Bhagat said the number of transmitters would be increased soon to 423 from the present 335.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks on Armed Forces Day

LD1804103189 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Members of the Armed Forces participated in a parade at Azadi Square here today displaying their preparedness and military might to defend the achievements of their Islamic revolution and homeland.

Addressing the participants in the ceremony, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the Armed Forces Day as a fateful one and described it is a turning point for the Armed Forces.

To have a sound evaluation, it can be said that after ten years the Islamic revolution and republic brought blessings to all the Armed Forces personnel, Rafsanjani pointed out.

He added that global arrogance believed that Iran's Armed Forces would remain in the country as an intrusive element after the victory of the Islamic revolution. However, he said, soon they realised that they had committed an enormous mistake and their calculations were wrong.

The Majlis speaker who is also acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, said the imam has ensured the Army personnel that the Islamic revolution has accepted them. [sentence as received]

Lauding the brilliant record of the Armed Forces in Kurdistan and the eight-year imposed-war, Rafsanjani said "all the investments of the U.S., British and other colonialistic centers of the world on Iran's Armed Forces contavened and are at the services of the nation at present." [sentence as received]

He stressed that the Muslim nation of Iran valued all its military forces, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), the Gendarmerie, the Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC), the Gendarmerie, the Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC), the police, and was ready to pay a heavy price for them. The Armed Forces should perform their Islamic, patriotic and revolutionary duties better than before, he concluded.

Present in the ceremony were commanders of the Armed Forces, IRGC commander, imam's representative to the Armed Forces, defence minister, gendarmerie commander, police chief, deputy chief of staff, imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council, a group of ranking military and IRGC commanders, military attaches residing here as well as the bereaved families of martyrs.

Rafsanjani's speech was followed by a parade of the Armed Forces personnel and various units including chemical defence, and anti-aircraft defence.

Various kinds of missiles, bombs, rockets, radar systems, light and heavy artillery units, tanks, and war booties were displayed during the parade.

A major part of the weaponry on display has been manufactured by the self-sufficiency jihad of the Air Force.

The first Iranian-made helicopter "Shabaviz", manufactured by the Defence Industries Organization and an IRC helicopter threw flowers on the people at the square, and a group of airborne troopers carried out parachuting operations.

Iranian jet fighers and cargo aircraft flew over the square while four of them were displaying refueling operations.

Meanwhile 96 helicopters—gunship and personnel carriers—beautifully passed over the skies of the square.

Defense Industries Manufacture New Missile

LD1704154189 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—A new surface-to-surface missile with a range of 200 kms. has been manufactured by defence industries organisation said an official here today. He said, during the 10 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution the organisation has added 153 types of new weapons to its product line.

In addition to this new missile, the organisation has manufactured Oqab (Eagle), Shahin (Falcon)-1 and Shahin-2 missiles. The organisation also repairs F-4 and F-14 fighters as well as Falcon jets besides overhauling boeing 747s and 707s he said.

The organisation has established a science and defence industries academy in Esfahan which will admit 700 students this year.

Naval Commander Announces Gulf Maneuvers

LD1704151489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] On the eve of Army Day, Rear Admiral Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, gave an interview to the press in which he evaluated the achievements of the armed forces, and particularly of the Navy. According to a Central News Unit report, he lauded the Army's achievements throughout the 10 years since the Islamic revolution and the fruits of the 8 years of sacred defense.

The naval commander reiterated Iran's self-reliance, saying that hitherto, 20 diverse projects have been fulfilled in the course of the war, and at present we are on the verge of completing a project on the manufacturing of submarines. We have also initiated some major research projects in Bandar-e Abbas.

Rear Admiral Malekzadegan stressed the necessity of the naval force's preparedness, saying, the greatest naval maneuver will commence midway in the month 22 April-21 May in the Persian Gulf.

Regarding the mine-sweeping operations in the Shatt al-'Arab, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, said: After resolving the political dimensions of Security Council Resolution 598, the Navy will be ready to begin minesweeping operations in all regions, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's fleet possesses the necessary capabilities.

Support for Afghan Coalition Government Denied

LD1804104289 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry official has categorically denied reports that Iran had agreed with the establishment of a coalition government in Afghanistan consisting of all parties including the communist party. The evening daily KEYHAN published the denial Monday quoting a reliable source in the Foreign Ministry.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN had published an interview with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov Sunday which was also carried by the AFP. Vorontsov reportedly said Iran had initiated a favorable stand towards the creation of a state in Afghanistan with the participation of all interested parties and that China too had adopted the same position.

Majlis Speaker Meets Gulf Conference Organizers

LD1804091489 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday urged the organising committee of the international conference on the Persian Gulf (Aug. 21-23) to invite political officials from other countries to attend the confab. He said this was imperative in light of the useful debates and favorable atmosphere prevailing over the conference. The Majlis speaker who made the remarks in a meeting with members of the committee added that individuals from Arab states, Islamic institutions and international research centers should also be invited.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said over 300 domestic and 250 foreign researchers and professors from 40 universities and research institutes abroad had been invited to take part in the conference sponsored by the Foreign Ministry. The tripartite economic, politico-strategic and cultural-legal committees of the conference have already started work, Velayati said.

Majlis Letter to Imam on Constitution Revision

LD1604175489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] After today's open Majlis session, more than 166 deputies wrote a letter asking the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to assign a group, if necessary, to reconsider the Constitution and prepare amendments to it. The text of the Majlis deputies' letter is as follows:

In his exalted name, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the IRI, Your Excellency Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may your shadow extend: We wish you sincere greetings and wishes for good health and a long life for your holiness.

The IRI Constitution, despite having numerous strong points and containing lofty ideals—similar to other of mankind's laws and writings—is not devoid of flaws and shortcomings. Some of its conclusions and principles—namely concerning the judiciary, the organization of the executive branch, the issue of leadership, and so forth—are fundamentally incorrect. If it is not amended, managing the country's affairs will face serious problems. This is apparent to all who have been involved in affairs over the past 10 years.

Thanks to God's blessings, the special attention of the one who rules—for him we sacrifice our lives—and the prophetic leadership of the great imam, the Islamic revolution has proudly left behind its first decade and, despite the numerous plots hatched by world arrogance, has started the second decade with more confidence and assurance. The IRI is now moving toward the reconstruction of the country and the propagation of pure Muhammadan Islam, God's blessings be upon him, all over the world. We Majlis deputies, as the representatives of the people, ask your eminence, if you see fit, to assign a group to reconsider the Constitution and prepare draft amendments which, after being approved, can be put to a referendum by your eminence.

Judicial Council Proposes Amending Constitution
LD1704105 89 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—The High Judicial Council in a letter to Imam Khomeyni Monday suggested that a team be formed to review amendments to the constitutional law, if the imam deemed it necessary. The proposal was made in the light of the ongoing discussion in the society concerning the need for making amendments to the constitutional law of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said the letter. It added that on the basis of experience certain articles of the Constitution regarding leadership and those relating to the branches of government are in immediate need of amendments.

The council called on the imam to give orders for appointment of a team to shoulder the task and submit its recommendations to the imam. It suggested that the amendment be put on a public referendum if approved by the imam.

Mirzadeh Discusses Reconstruction, Foreign Loans
LD1704192 89 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—Deputy prime minister and head of rehabilitation Hamid Mirzadeh outlined reconstruction projects, the status of war refugees and the budget allocated to war-ravaged areas. In an interview carried by the Persian daily KEYHAN today also rejected the notion of foreign loans as detrimental to the Islamic revolution and the independence of the country in the long run.

"Last year at least 84,000 housing units were built in 14 provinces and in almost 65 cities which had periodically been attacked during the war years. Currently the task of reconstruction of about 51 cities has been completed. This year the reconstruction of such other cities as Dezful and Ilam will be completed," he said.

Mirzadeh disclosed that for reconstruction in the current year the government has allocated a budget of about 65 billion rials (929 mn dlrs), ten per cent of which is to be extended to farmers and cattle breeders as aid. He said, according to a government decision the provinces of Khorasan, Mazandaran, and Esfahan will contribute to reconstruction porjects in Abadan, while Tehran and Gilan provinces will contribute to such projects for the city of Khorramshahr.

"According to another cabinet decision all government and nationalized companies may establish schools in war-stricken areas. All costs they incur for this purpose will be tax free. Therefore we can say that reconstruction tasks at least in urban areas will be completed over a short period," he added.

Information on war refugees from all cities including Abadan has been computerized, said the deputy premier and hoped that in due course the government will arrange for their return home and provide them with their needs such as construction materials. "The majority of war refugees insist on going to their hometowns, rather than live in other towns, and are asking the government to facilitate their return home," he said.

Mirzadeh also threw light on the area of housing and construction materials as well the reconstruction of refineries and power plants, which he said are successfully nearing completion without relying on foreign expertise.

He then took up the important issue of foreign borrowings, which the majority of officials have frowned upon as betrayal of the Islamic revolution's principles. "We believe foreign loans would in the long run make the country dependent with adverse effects on the aspirations of the Islamic revolution. Foreign loans will adversely affect our commitment to independence... Reconstruction work is another aspect of our sacred defence in which task, I think, we should be as firm as we were in the battlefronts," concluded Mirzadeh.

Papers Preview UN-Sponsored Geneva Peace Talks

Steps for 'Permanent Peace'
LD1504092689 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Withdrawal of forces to international borders has been considered by a morning

daily as "the first step" towards the establishment of a permanent peace between Iran and Iraq.

Referring to the news that the 3-partite peace negotiations between Tehran, Baghdad and the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will be resumed in Geneva Thursday, the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said "The Islamic Republic is realistic in the negotiations and if the Iraqi regime seriously wants peace, it must give in to the withdrawal of its forces to the international frontiers."

"Despite an elapse of 9 months since the enforcement of the ceasefire, even the first atricle of the U.N. Resolution 598 has not come into force," it added. Recalling the recent statements made by the U.N. chief on the need for an immediate resumption of the peace negotiations with good will and decisiveness, the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 and the extradition of prisoners of war, the daily's editorial stressed that "these are the points which have also been repeatedly underlined by the Islamic Republic, but the Baghdad regime has so far resorted to various excuses in order to impede the way to realization of peace."

"By doing so, the Iraqi Ba'thists hope to postpone the implementation of the resolution as they know that its full implementation is detrimental to the aggressor and naturally it cannot be welcomed by the Iraqi regime."

"All efforts should be concentrated on a full, immediate and precise implementation of the resolution," the paper stressed and assured that "nothing less than that will be acceptable by the Islamic Republic."

"By capitalizing non-important issues and trying to change the sequence of the resolution's articles, Iraq has so far made efforts to block the way to its exact and full implementation. But Iran's insistance in keeping the order of the articles has stopped such efforts."

"The participation of De Cuellar in the new round of the negotiations indicates that he personally believes in the need for the immediate and precise execution of the peace resolution and sincerely tries to bring about its realization."

The paper quoted President Khamene'i as saying yesterday that the Iranian people are anxiously waiting for the outcome of the negotiations. He has called the new round of the talks as the "most important and decisive" one for the Islamic Republic, adding that Iranian negotiators should know that they are trusted by the leader, the government, and the nation of Iran.

Daily Urges Firm UN Stand

LD1504130689 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—A Persian daily today called on U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is to mediate the fourth round of Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva, to consider penalties for any side trying to obstruct negotiations. In its editorial Saturday, the daily KEYHAN also urged De Cuellar to explicitly announce to the U.N Security Council "who really are blocking the way of a lasting peace."

The fourth round of face-to-face talks between foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq aimed at implementing U.N. Resolution 598 is to be held in Geneva Thursday. The Baghad regime's procrastination of the peace talks speaks for the failure of its expansionist goals in its almost eight-year war against the Islamic Republic, and its inability to justify its aggression, the daily suggested.

On the other hand, KEYHAN said, the regime in Baghad is facing well-organized dissident Kurds in northern Iraq who have taken the advantage of the imposed war to boost their military power.

"This is why Saddam (Husayn) wants to prolong the peace talks in order to quell all opposition to his despotic rule," said the daily, adding "Baghad's policy of razing Kurdish towns and forcing the indigenous population to abandon their hometowns serves this purpose."

It is time for the Security Council to take firm stand against the party trying to impede the negotiations, concluded the daily.

'Little Room' for Progress

LD1504144189 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—A Persian daily today said that despite U.N. optimism attached to the 4th round of Iran-Iraq peace talks to start in Geneva April 20 the continued Iraqi obstinacy leaves little room for progress.

"Of course we are serious on the peace issue, but Iraq's claims are self-contradictory, whether on the day it feigned peace, or today when it claims negotiations," the daily ETTELA'AT quoted from President Khamene'i's sermon at the Friday prayer yesterday.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will lead the Iranian side at U.N. mediated face-to-face talks, while Ba'athist Iraq will be led by its Christian Foreign Minister Tariq Michel Yohanna 'Aziz.

The daily drew attention to Baghad's stance on the eve of the new peace round as summed up by Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Nezar Hamdun to the British news agency REUTER: We do not expect a significant progress in the new talks... Iraqi soldiers have taken control of about 990 sq. kms of Iranian soil, from where Iraq would hardly agree to withdraw before ceasefire is consolidated."

"The figure Hamdun quotes above is in fact a third of the actual area under Iraqi occupation," said ETTE'LAT and the distortion of facts by the Iraqi minister proves the "inherent aggressiveness of the Ba'athist regime."

Hamdun's remarks coupled with the letter sent to the U.N. chief by Tariq 'Aziz on January 5 that withdrawal of two sides from each others' soil will take place once it is proven that these areas have been seized through military operations, shows the hypocrisy of Iraqi officials, it said.

Yohanna 'Aziz imagines that part of Iranian territory was occupied by Iraq without military operations, and thus cannot be considered as military occupation, it remarked.

Strange logic indeed despite almost 8 years of blatant aggression, thought the daily, and noted that Hamdun's interview coupled with 'Aziz's letter proves that Baghad does not attach any credit to the U.N., its secretary general and its resolution whatsoever, and therefore does not take the talks seriously.

"The Islamic Republic officials should continue these vicious circle of talks and talks only to a certain limit," the daily made it clear.

Full Iraqi Commitment Needed

LD1804064889 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Referring to the preparations underway for the resumption of the U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq, an Iranian daily has considered that "it is to the detriment of the U.N. if Iraq is again permitted to obstruct the peace process." "This will leave a negative impact on the record of the United Nations in dealing with crucial world issues in the future," KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said in an editorial today.

The English-language daily has obliged the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar "to extract from Iraq its full commitment to the ceasefire agreement" now that the Iranian and Iraqi delegations head for Geneva talks to start Thursday.

But it noted that "although hopes have been expressed for a show of goodwill by the parties to the dialogue, reservations as to what delaying tactic the Iraqi side will employ this time have dampened expectations for the forthcoming parlay."

"The U.N.'s credibility was boosted visibly when it arranged the Iran-Iraq ceasefire" the daily recalled and concluded that "it is the U.N. chief's responsibility to guaranteee that it fulfills the peace-keeping role entrusted to it by the international community in bringing about a lasting peace in the region."

Iraq Orders 'Forced Removal' of 400,000 Kurds

LD1404171889 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] London, April 14, IRNA—Up to 400,000 Kurds have now been given orders from the Iraqi regime for their forced removal, according to sources in London.

Earlier this week Kurds in London reported that their brothers in Qal'at Dizah had been told to evacuate the northern Iraqi city. This, they say, has been extended to the town of Raniyah and the districts of Betwin and Pishdar.

As many as 1.5 million Kurds are thought to have already been transported by the Iraqi regime in its policy of genocide and mass depopulation in Kurdistan. Many sent to concentration camps near the border with Saudi Arabia have never been heard of again. The sources said relatives from Raniyah had contacted refugee families which have alreay fled to London and described how each household had been given relocation papers and threats of punishment if they were not completed.

Local reports have alreay confirmed that Iraqi troops have surrounded Qal'at Dizah, where the population has been given until April 25 to get out, and that transportations have started.

Reinforcement troops at Raniyah have yet to be reported and has led to the suggestion that the inhabitants are being encouraged to flee to Iran to save the regime moving the population.

Kurds in London fear that without any international outcry, the regime of Saddam Hussayn in Baghdad, will be able to continue his "scorched earth policy" of depopulating up to 30 kilometres of Kurdistan along the border with Iran.

Estimates suggest that so far as many of 3,000 villages may have been destroyed in the campaign that has been going on since the late 1970s but which has intensified in the last two years with the regime's use of chemical weapons on the Kurds.

Iraqis To Deport Citizens of Iranian Origin

LD1704104189 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Bakhtaran, Western Iran, April 17, IRNA—The Iraqi regime has decided to deport a large number of Iraqis with Iranian origin in the next few days, informed sources said here Monday. The sources said these families have forcefully moved to a border city and will soon be sent into Iran. The Iranian authorities have taken measures for accommodation of the deportees.

Since declaration of the cease-fire last August Iraq on several occasions had deported Iraqis with Iranian ancestry and also Kurdish people of the country who have arrived in Iran through the Bakhtaran border.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Arrives 15 Apr

LD1504065589 Tehran IRNA in English 0450 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister of Ethiopia Berhanu Bayeh, arrived here Saturday morning heading a political-economic delegation and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Ethiopian foreign minister, the first ever to visit Iran in the post-revolution decade, it to discuss expansion of bilateral relations, regional problems and issues of mutal interest with Iranian officials.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD1504185789 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Visiting Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh said Saturday that his country and Iran could take more serious steps towards expanding mutual ties by setting up a joint economic commission.

In the first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Bayeh pledged Ethiopia's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598. He also briefed Valayati on the achievements of his country, its support for the freedom movements in Africa and efforts to consolidate solidarity of African nations.

In response, Velayati welcomed the idea of establishing a joint economic commission and expressed hope that mutual ties would further expand in the future. Velayati briefed Bayeh on the trend of the Iran-Iraq peace talks and voiced the Islamic Republic's support for the uprising of the Palestinian people against the Zionist regime. He maintained that if Palestinian people continued their struggle they would certainly vindicate their denied rights.

Meets With Iravani

LD1604140589 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Visiting Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh today called for expansion of Tehran-Addis Ababa economic relations in trade and agricultural fields in a meeting with Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani.

Iravani in response confirmed Iran's readiness to cooperate with Ethiopia in mining and agricultural fields, construction of small dams and silos as well as medical and hygienic areas.

Talks were also held on exchange of exp
formation of a Tehran-Addis Ababa jo
ert delegations and
int commission.

The Ethiopian minister arrived here
head of a delegation.
e Saturday at the

Confers With Khame
ne'i

*LD1704110889 Tehran IRNA in Engli
17 Apr 89*
ish 1100 GMT

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—Presi
ne'i today welcomed expansion of Te
ties "to the interest of both nations."
ident 'Ali Khame-
hran-Addis Ababa

The president made the remark in a
visiting Ethiopian Foreign Minister B
meeting with the
erhanu Bayeh.

President Khamene'i praised the "pro
stand of the Ethiopian government
imposed war. He stressed identical p
paigning against oppressive policies a
as a desirable common aspect for
between the two countries.
oper and rational"
during the Iraqi-
positions for cam-
nd described this
further approach

Bayeh said the government and na
attached great importance to their ties
with the Iranian Government and re
tions as strategic. He said President K
ing with his Ethiopian counterpart Me
iam in Harare during the non-aligned
had paved the way for further under
the two countries.
ation of Ethiopia
s and cooperation
garded these rela-
Khamene'i's meet-
ngistu Haile Mar-
l meeting in 1987
rstanding between

Bayeh said Ethiopian officials were
enforcement of cease-fire in the Ir
expressed hope that a durable peace
lished in the region while preserving Ira
also called for expansion of mutual ti
interest between the two countries.
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Bayeh arrived here Saturday for a 4-d
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Holds Talks With Mus
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*LD1804105689 Tehran IRNA in Engli
18 Apr 89*
sh 1030 GMT

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The
Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh met
ister Hoseyn Musavi here Tuesday mo
visiting Ethiopian
with Prime Min-
orning.

Bayeh briefed Musavi on the situation
country and stressed the importance o
cal, economic and cultural ties. He s
grounds provide great opportunities
Ababa cooperation, expressing the hope
taken to this end.
of Muslims in his
of bilateral politi-
said the common
for Tehran-Addis
e that steps will be

During the meeting also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the prime minister expressed satisfaction with the improvement of status of Muslims in Ethiopia and said expansion of bilateral relations was of special importance for Iran.

Musavi told the Ethiopian minister who arrived here last Saturday heading a delegation, that contrary to the impression created by the West that Third World countries have no grounds upon which they could establish cooperation, they enjoy ample potentials for cooperation.

He stressed that the time has come for Third World countries to seize the opportunity and establish sound relations and cooperate in their own development.

Ethiopian Trade Minister Holds Official Talks

Confers With Aqazadeh

LD1804085189 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The visiting Ethiopian Foreign Trade Minister [title as received] Aklilu Afe Work met with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh this morning and discussed bilateral economic relations as well as oil and technical cooperation. Iran's technical know-how in oil exploration and training programs in oil, natural gas and petrochemical technology was also raised. The two sides also discussed dispatch of Iranian oil experts to Ethiopia.

Aqazadeh praised Ethiopian Government's friendly stand towards the Islamic Republic of Iran and welcomed expansion of bilateral relations. He also expressed hopes that in the near future a team of experts from the Oil Ministry will visit Ethiopia for oil and natural gas exploration research.

Afe Work is part of a delegation headed by Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh currently here on a four-day official visit.

Meets Commerce Minister

LD1804082689 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The visiting Ethiopian Foreign Trade Minister [title as received] Aklilu Afe Work discussed establishment of Tehran-Addis Ababa commercial ties, in a meeting with acting Commerce Minister 'Abdul- Hoseyn Vahaji Monday.

The two sides also reviewed each other's import needs and export capacities and possibilities. They expressed hope that the two countries could further cooperate in commercial field and enter into joint investment in industrial and mineral projects.

Afe Work is accompanying Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh who arrived here Saturday for a 4-day official visit.

Envoy Holds Talks With Bahraini Foreign Minister

LD1504170889 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Ways of expanding Tehran-Doha relations were discussed in a meeting between Iranian charge d'affaires to Bahrain Hoseyn Naraqian and Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah. The two also discussed the latest developments in the region and the issues of the Muslim world.

Naraqian handed the Bahraini foreign minister a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Iranian diplomat also held talks with Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al Mu'ayyid on expansion of mutual cultural ties.

Paper Cited on Mubarak's Ouster of Abu Ghazalah

LD1704064989 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—An Iranian daily said today that the ouster of Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has given the Mubarak regime a "chance to appear with a less violent and corrupt image before the domestic opposition."

"It also makes it possible for Mubarak to mend fences with some wings within the Arab world," commented the English language daily TEHRAN TIMES.

It said Washington kept General Abu Ghazalah, a staunch supporter of the U.S. orchestrated Camp David accords, as its trump card, some sort of a shadow government, that would come in for suppression once the Mubarak regime failed in checking popular movements.

Some observers believe that the disclosure of the general's financial corruption included his involvement in kickbacks related to Egypt's missile industries, had certainly had the green light from Husni Mubarak. However, it is believed that Mubarak attempted to get the U.S. nod for sacking Abu Ghazalah in his recent tour of Washington, the daily said.

It added that General Abu Ghazalah had installed many of his own men, some of them in key positions, in the military establishment. The daily suggested, "Mubarak has a tough fight on his hands if he ever tries to replace Abu Ghazalah's clique."

'Atrocities' Against Palestinians Condemned

LD1704062689 Tehran IRNA in English 0621 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry in a statement condemned the Zionist massacre of innocent Muslims in a village in occupied Palestine. The statement issued Sunday night described the last Thursday killing and injuring of tens of residents of the Nahalin village as "the latest crime of a regime which is shamelessly massacring people who are only defending Islam."

The Zionists are crushing and massacring the Muslims while the compromising and client states of the region by turning their back to the Palestinian cause are in fact encouraging the Zionist regime to continue its crimes, it added.

The countries and organizations claiming to be supporting the human rights, and the U.S. veto of the Security Council resolution in condemnation of the Zionist regime, share the Zionist crimes against the Muslims, it said.

The Foreign Ministry of Iran while condemning the Zionist crimes and deploring silence of international community towards these crimes—clear cases of state-sponsored terrorism, renews its support for the Palestinian people in their anti-Zionist struggle.

The Foreign Ministry expressed readiness to render material and spiritual support for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinians. It also urged Islamic, freedom-loving and non-aligned countries to meet their Islamic duty in helping the Palestinians regain their rights.

TEHRAN TIMES on New Scope of Presidency

LD1804071389 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—An Iranian daily said today that the new president will be vested with more authority in case the amendments to the constitutional law were approved before the coming presidential elections (to be held in summer). "A proposal was recently set forth asking for the elimination of the position of premiership replacing it by president's deputies," said the TEHRAN TIMES.

The English daily added that Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the strongest presidential candidate, was among the signatories of the proposal.

The high judicial council and over 130 Majlis deputies proposed the assignment of an authorised group by the leader of the Islamic revolution to review the Constitution and make necessary amendments. "The proposal will most likely be substantiated by the leader of the Islamic revolution who will possibly entrust a group of high-ranking politico-religious personalities with this sensitive and significant responsibility."

The daily believed that there were major shortcomings in the organisational structure of the executive power the most noteworthy of which was a lack of centralisation and desired coordination.

"The amendments can also answer various questions concerning the future leader or the leadership council," said the TEHRAN TIMES.

Editorial Lauds Army's 'Outstanding Reputation'

LD1804074189 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial on Tuesday commented on the Army Day—April 18—and said a powerful army is of great significance to a country and its government. Under the Islamic Republic, it added, the Army shoulders a far more delicate and important responsibility. "It is the guardian of the supreme values of the ruling system, as well as the independence, freedom and territorial integrity of the country." The power of an army does not rest on its access to modern weaponry but rather the support it receives from the people, it pointed, adding that this is the privilege the Iranian Army enjoys and the Army and the nation are bound by strong ties. The editorial stressed that the power of the Armed Forces is in fact the power of the nation.

It also praised the braveries displayed by Iran's Armed Forces in the course of the eight years of the Iraqi war and against the aggressions of the arrogant powers of the East and the West.

"The Army Day is the day that the nation expresses its appreciation to the Armed Forces for its heroic resistance during eight years and its defense of the nation, the country and the revolution."

Elsewhere, the article said the enemies of the nation, among them Britain, who could not see the status the Iranian Army enjoyed among the people, spread false rumors concerning the Armed Forces. The objective is to create distrust among the Armed Forces on the one hand and tarnish the Army's image before the people, JOMHURI-YE said. It said the BBC by reporting that several military commanders have been executed and by even anouncing their names, had further disgraced itself.

The article concluded that in the post-revolution decade the Army has gained itself an outstanding reputation and is a source of pride for the nation.

81st Armored Division Holds Maneuvers

LD1704164189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[text] On the eve of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Day, [name indistinct] maneuver were undertaken by the combatants of the 81st Armoured Division and Bakhtaran Army aerial units in the heights of the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.

In the maneuvers, which were undertaken for the purpose of increasing the combat capability of the combatants of Islam, the personnel of the 2d Brigade of the 81st Armored Division performed armored tactical exercises, using heavy weaponry, thus foiling a hypothetical enemy attack. While being supported by aerial unit pilots, they attacked the hypothetical enemy's positions and captured them.

The maneuvers which were performed in the presence of a group of officials and commanders of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army. The powerful combatants of Islam once again demonstrated their capacity for guarding our Islamic homeland's borders.

Pakistan

Report on Closure of Kahuta Nuclear Plant Denied

BK1804152189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] A federal government spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Kahuta [nuclear] plant is functioning as usual. He denied a report published in a section of the press that the government has ordered a closure of the plant at the behest of certain foreign governments.

Troops Sent to 12 Sind Towns Following Violence

BK1504160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] In Pakistan, troops have been rushed to a dozen towns in Sind Province following the death of four persons in ethnic violence today. Three persons were killed in Larkana and one in the nearby Sukkur Town. Eye witnesses say troops have set up pickets at Larkana, Sukkur, Dadu, Nawabshah, Khairpur, Rohri, Hyderabad, Kotri, Mirpurkhas, Tando Adam, and Jamshoro to check lawlessness and illegal movement of arms.

More than 900 people have died in ethnic violent clashes in Sind since October 1986, 50 of them in the past 5 weeks alone. The clashes have been between Sindi nationalists on the one hand and muhajir immigrants from India, Punjabis and Pashtuns from the north on the other.

Former Pilot of Ziaul Haq Arrested in Drug Case

BK1704155489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] According to reports, the anti-narcotics division last night busted a ring involved in illegal trafficking and trade of narcotics and currency. Besides Pakistan, the group has branches in Dubayy, London, and Norway. In Dubayy, certain influential people are also involved in the ring, including Anwarul Haq of the BCCI [expansion unknown].

Retired Major Farooq Hameed, who is the leader of the gang and who had been the pilot of General Ziaul Haq, was arrested in Rawalpindi last night. Retired Major Farooq is the sole organizer of the international activities of this group, which extend to major cities in Abu Dhabi, the United Kingdom, Norway, the United States, and Spain.

The Pakistanis involved in this gang include, besides retired Major Farooq, persons named Tahir Butt and Munawwar Hussain who had been operating along with another person named Abdur Rashid, who is now under police custody in Norway and is being prosecuted there. Further investigations into the issue are in progress.

Wali Khan Warns Afghan War May Spill Over Border

BK1604101589 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Apr 89 p 8

[By Raja Zulfikar]

[Text] Rawalpindi, April 5—The ANP [Awami National Party] Chief Khan Abdul Wali Khan on Wednesday said the Afghan war might spill over to Pakistan, leading to wide-spread destruction in both countries. He said he had written letters to the leaders of the Third World countries so that they should use their good offices to find a peaceful settlement of the Afghan conflict.

Wali Khan was answering questions of newsmen at "Face the Press" programme at the Rawalpindi Press Club here this afternoon. The programme was attended by a large number of journalists including some Islamabad-based foreign correspondents.

The ANP chief said he considered it his duty to point out the lurking dangers to the country. He said if the existing policy continued, it may lead to disastrous consequences.

The ANP leader said at present options were available as Najib had offered to induct mujahidin leaders in the Kabul government. But, Wali Khan said, once these options are gone, it would logically result in a war in which Pakistan could suffer.

Mr. Wali Khan said the trouble in Afghanistan was not due to the USSR. It was rather the "throne of Kabul", which was the main reason of the present conflict. Russia, he said, had left the Afghan soil and it had only shown that Afghan trouble was in fact an internal problem.

He said from the government present policy it appeared as if Afghanistan was the fifth province of Pakistan. He suggested that "we should pay attention to our internal problem and solve them amicably than to indulge in outside conflicts."

The Khan accused the Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) of having "total" involvment in the Afghan problem. America, he said, had also expressed concern over the involvement of the agency in the Afghan war.

He claimed that th[illegible]he mujahidin were being supplied arms through Pakistan[illegible]n. He quoted some ministers of the interim Afghan [illegible]mujahidin as saying that they were getting armed sup[illegible]pplied in abundance through Pakistan.

He accused Pakis[illegible]stan of having eliminated the international frontiers in[illegible] Afghanistan and said every one could roam here and the[illegible]ere with arms without any check.

He also lashed o[illegible]ut at what he said was presence of another parliamen[illegible]nt (the interim Afghan shura) in the country and said i[illegible]f we do so, others might as well behave in the same way a[illegible]as Pakistan had.

Khan Wali Khan[illegible]n observed that the mujahidin were experiencing rift a[illegible]among themselves and they would not be able to functio[illegible]on smoothly. Substantiating his argument, he said, if th[illegible]he mujahidin could force the USSR to flee from Afghanis[illegible]stan, why had they failed to overthrow the Kabul regime [illegible]which was a mini power as compared to the Soviet Unio[illegible]on.

New Indian Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK1804020489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] India's new ambassador to Pakistan, Mr J.N. Dixit, yesterday presented credentials to the Pakistan president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad. During his 20-minute meeting with the president, Mr Dixit reiterated India's policy of consolidating the process of normalization in India-Pakistan relations. In his reply, Mr Khan stressed his government's keenness in creating an atmosphere of confidence.

Sri Lanka

Tamils Name London Representative to Peace Talks

BK1804044489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0438 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 18 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group said Tuesday it had nominated its London-based political strategist for talks with President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said Anton Balasingam would leave for Colombo shortly for a direct dialogue with the Colombo government following an appeal by Mr Premadasa.

LTTE militants, currently waging a bloody guerrilla campaign against some 45,000 to 50,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka's north and east, agreed to peace talks after the government announced a week-long unilateral truce.

However, LTTE activists have kept up attacks since the ceasefire went into effect Wednesday killing more than 90 people, including 10 Indian and 21 Sri Lankan soldiers.

Mr Premadasa Saturday asked the LTTE to name an accredited representative to discuss arrangements for the meeting somewhere in Sri Lanka after the group in a surprise move accepted Mr Premadasa's peace initiative.

The brief statement released by the LTTE's London office did not say when Mr Balasingam would leave Britain or whether any conditions would be attached to the talks.

Similar talks between the government and Tamil rebels failed in 1985 and both sides have stepped up attacks since then.

The LTTE repudiated a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody separatist campaign in the island's Tamil-populated Northern and Eastern regions.

The group has consistently asked for the withdrawal of Indian troops deployed under the peace accord and the recognition of a separate Tamil state they call Eelam.

Officials here said Mr Premadasa's office received confirmation from the LTTE London office about Mr Balasingam's nomination as their representative late Monday.

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